

28 July 1993



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Epidemiology

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Epidemiological Reports 24-30 May

MB3105134593

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 24 to 30 May concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

BOTSWANA

AIDS—Botswana is one of the worst countries in Africa affected by the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) pandemic, according to a local expert. Sixty thousand Batswana were suffering from AIDS in 1992, with the spread of AIDS in that country being "among the swiftest in the world," said Dr. Matschediso Moeti of Botswana's National AIDS Control Programme. She cited as possible reasons the fact that many Batswana travelled a lot, and Botswana being a thoroughfare between southern African countries. Truck drivers travelling between South Africa and central and east Africa via Botswana were a particularly seriously affected group, she added. (Johannesburg SAPA English 1323 GMT May 29 93)

MOZAMBIQUE

Malaria—A total of 13 people have died of malaria and malnutrition in the capital of Zavala District in Inhambane Province. The local hospital registered more than 2,000 cases of malaria since the beginning of this year. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0700 GMT 28 May 93)

ZIMBABWE

Tuberculosis, STD, AIDS in Harare—More than 2,700 new cases of tuberculosis were reported last year at Harare City Council clinics, an increase of 16 percent from the previous year. According to the City Health Department annual report, the overcrowded living conditions and the HIV epidemic contributed to the increase in tuberculosis cases. The report said sexually transmitted diseases are declining in the city. A total of 182,102 patients were treated for sexually transmitted diseases at the city's 27 primary care clinics. This reflects a decrease of 19.3 percent compared to 1991 attendances. The Director of Health Services, Dr. Lovemore Mbengeranwa, said the AIDS epidemic continued to gather momentum, imposing a tremendous strain on the health-care delivery system. He said the registered infant mortality rate (under one year) had increased from 32.4

per 1,000 live births in 1991 to 43.02 per 1,000 in 1992. (Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 20 May 93 p 10)

Epidemiological Reports 31 May - 6 June

MB0606191593

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 31 May to 6 June concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

MOZAMBIQUE

Cholera in Sofala Province—Between January and May this year, more than 800 people died of cholera in Maringue, an area under the control of the Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo. Maringue Administrator Nobre Meque is cited by a Renamo spokesman as having said that the death of these people was caused by the lack of medicines in the area. Nobre Meque also said that if the international community does not urgently send medicines to Maringue, many people could die of other diseases like malaria and diarrhea. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 4 Jun 93)

Cholera—In the Cafumpe administrative region of Manica Province's Gondola District 26 people died of cholera between April and May. The deceased were displaced people residing in the Bengo Accommodation Center in Gondola. Health officials in Manica say the disease situation is under control.

SWAZILAND

Malaria—The head of the malaria program, Mr. Simon Kunene, says from January to the end of May there have been 1,326 people treated for malaria this year in all the country's hospitals and clinics. He said 6 percent of malaria deaths were recorded this year, which he said is an increase as compared to last year when the country was hard-hit by drought. Mr. Kunene further appeals to the public to take preventive measures when visiting countries such as Mozambique and Zimbabwe, where there is a malaria epidemic. (Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Jun 93)

AIDS—Prime Minister Odeb Dlamini said the rapid increase in AIDS in Swaziland could wipe out the population of about 800,000 within about 25 years unless steps are taken soon. Mr. Dlamini said there were an estimated 27,000 AIDS cases in Swaziland. They posed a great risk to the country's economy. The responsibility for stopping the rapid spread of AIDS could no longer be left with the Swazi Health Ministry. (Johannesburg Channeled Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 6 Jun 93)

Epidemiological Reports 7-13 June**MB1306164693**

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 7-13 June concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

BOTSWANA

AIDS—"One in every three pregnant women in Francistown, and one in every five in Gaborone have the HIV virus which causes AIDS," reports the Health Ministry. The ministry further states that about half the men treated for sexually transmitted diseases in Francistown, and one in every three in Gaborone, carry the virus. [Gaborone Botswana Radio Network English 1610 GMT 9 Jun]

MOZAMBIQUE

AIDS in Nampula Province—In 1992 at least eight people died of AIDS in nine districts and cities in Nampula Province, and in Cuamba, Quelimane, and Pemba. A total of 23 AIDS cases were reported in those areas in 1992. The Nampula AIDS Advisory Center reports that 14 AIDS cases were reported in the first five months of 1993. A total of 217 HIV cases were also reported during that period. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 12 Jun 93)

Cholera in Renamo Areas—More than 80 village people have died of cholera in areas controlled by the Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo, due to a lack of medicines. Renamo has been blamed for refusing to allow health workers to enter into its zones. (Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1100 GMT 13 Jun 93)

Epidemiological Reports 14-20 June**MB2006193293**

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 14 to 20 June concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

MOZAMBIQUE

Measles in Cabo Delgado—"An outbreak of measles has been killing an average of three children daily in Anquabe District. Local health officials have been taking measures such as vaccination in a bid to prevent the spread of the epidemic to other areas." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 14 Jun 93)

Malaria—"Malaria is killing at least one child every day in the Chidenguela area of Gaza Province. Malaria has also been the cause of anemia problems in children." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 18 Jun 93)

Epidemiological Reports 5-11 July**MB1107192593**

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 5 - 11 July concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

MOZAMBIQUE

More than 160 patients suffering from cholera have been admitted to the Gondola health center in Manica Province this year. Twenty of those patients have died. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 8 Jul 93)

SWAZILAND

Two cases of rabies have been confirmed in the country by the director of veterinary services, Dr. R.S. Thwala: one rabid dog in Mhlume and another in Veleziweni. Following the confirmation of the two cases, the following areas have been declared rabies guard areas: in the Lubombo region—Mhlume and surrounding areas, Tshaneni, Mananga Border Post, Mananga Agricultural Center, Tambankulu Estates and Vululane; in the Manzini Region—Velezizweni Tank Area 529, Lukhetensi Tank Area 550, (Noits Hadoch) Tank Area 519. (Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jul 93)

Epidemiological Reports 12-18 July**MB1807191793**

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 12 to 18 July concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

MALAWI

AIDS—The government says the country is facing an HIV AIDS epidemic of substantial magnitude. As of March this year there were about 20,000 registered AIDS cases and that it was estimated that about 600,000 adult Malawians are infected by HIV. (Blantyre Malawi Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Jul 93)

AIDS—District Commissioner of Zomba, Mr. James Kalilangwe, expressed dismay that Zomba was among the first five districts with the highest number of AIDS victims. He said 28,000 people in Zomba had already been diagnosed, adding that a majority of them were school-going girls. (Blantyre Malawi Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Jul 93)

MOZAMBIQUE

Cholera—The World Health Organization yesterday revealed that Mozambique has the second highest

number of cholera cases in Africa. The organization has recorded a little more than 11,700 cases and 424 deaths in Mozambique. The African country with the highest number of cholera cases is Malawi, where WHO recorded a little more than 22,000 cases which resulted in 451 deaths, according to a report cited by the Portuguese news agency, LUSA. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 12 Jul 93)

Diarrhea in Zambezia Province—Five cases of diarrhea with traces of blood are recorded daily at Ocone health post in Inhassunge District. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 15 Jul 93)

Diarrhea in Manica Province—An outbreak of diarrhea killed 20 people in the Save Administrative Region of Manica Province's Machaze District between January and June 1993. Noe Fazenda, head of the administrative region, told our Chimoio correspondent that the deaths were due partly to a shortage of medicine. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 18 Jul 93)

SOUTH AFRICA

Tuberculosis—The Department of National Health and Population Development on Wednesday welcomed the recently-announced international funding for tuberculosis research in this country. Glaxco granted South Africa 30 million rand for TB research. The research programme will be conducted over a period of five years. The department's Deputy Director General Dr Hans Steyn said the programme coincided with the goals of the TB control programme announced recently by the department. The incidence of TB in the western Cape is among the highest in the world with a rate of 652 per 100,000 and still increasing. Scientists attribute the resurgence of TB worldwide to increasing resistance to drugs used in the treatment of TB, as well as the association of the disease with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). (Johannesburg SAPA in English 0747 GMT 14 Jul 93)

Disease Report From 18 May - 29 June

AB1807130093

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of disease reports monitored from FBIS Abidjan Bureau's coverage area. Source information follows in parentheses at the end of each item.

COTE D'IVOIRE

The WHO representative has given a general picture of AIDS worldwide and in Cote d'Ivoire. According to him, 611,589 AIDS cases have been reported to the WHO throughout the world since 4 January this year, including 211,032 for Africa. In Cote d'Ivoire, 14,655 cases were reported at the end of 1992. Giving a breakdown, he said in 1985 Cote d'Ivoire reported two cases to the WHO. In 1992, the figure went up to 3,863—thus bringing the

total to 14,655. [Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine Nationale-Une Network in French 1900 18 May 93]

Polluted water led to an outbreak of diarrhea in Zuenoula in June, but the outbreak has been controlled. Another outbreak of the disease has occurred since 7 July and 100 people have been treated for it. Thirty were hospitalized; others have been discharged. Ten people have died so far. Measures have been taken to stop the disease from spreading. [Abidjan La Chaine Une Television Network in French 2000 GMT 16 Jul 93]

GHANA

Nine people are dead in the Nabdam area in the Bolgatanga District after an outbreak of the deadly cattle disease, anthrax. The nine are believed to have eaten some of the contaminated beef from the 37 cattle who died from the disease. The Upper East regional veterinary officer told the GHANA NEWS AGENCY that 27 of the cattle died in the Pwalugu and Damongo areas while 10 died in Dusi village. [Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 0600 GMT 29 Jun 93]

Economic Briefs 28 June - 4 July

MB0507085993

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 28 June - 4 July on economic developments. Items are listed by country. Source follows each item.

LESOTHO

Irrigation Development—The minister of agriculture, cooperatives and marketing, the Honorable Ntsukunyane Mphanya, says a fundamental part of the policy of the new Lesotho Government is to ensure that development comes from the bottom up. Mr. Mphanya said it is his ministry's aim to ensure that the country is able to feed itself. He noted that every year Lesotho imports vegetables valued at more than 15 million maloti. If domestic production of irrigated vegetables could increase, the country would improve its balance of payments and the livelihood of its farmers. The seminar on irrigation, sponsored by the E.C. and the Irish Government, will look into ways of improving Lesotho's irrigation. (Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1600 GMT 30 Jun 93)

MOZAMBIQUE

Electricity—The Mozambique Electricity Company currently owes the South African Electricity Supply Commission, Eskom, for three months of electricity. According to Industry and Energy Minister Octavio Mutemba, the Mozambique Electricity Company pays 4 million rands to Eskom every month for electricity. He also said that only 3 percent of Mozambicans use electricity. The rest use alternative sources like firewood and coal. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 3 Jul 93)

Broadcasting—Radio Mozambique received a loan from the Federal Republic of Germany to purchase by international competitive bidding several 50 KW AM MW transmitters. This tender is open to offers from all World Bank member countries including Taiwan. (Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 21 Jun 93 p 5)

NAMIBIA

Fishing Rights—All existing fishing companies must re-apply for rights “to join the rich harvest of Namibia’s fisheries.” Their 1987 seven-year licences will expire at the end of 1993 and applications for new rights will be invited within weeks. Criteria in considering applications include conservation and economic development of marine resources; whether an applicant is a Namibian citizen or where “beneficial ownership” of an applying company belongs to Namibians; and will also consider who actually owns boats, on-shore processing and whether an applicant “will actually be able to make use of their rights ‘in a satisfactory manner’ including past progress in Namibianising.” (Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN in English 24 Jun 93 pp 1,2]

SOUTH AFRICA

Business Opportunities Conference—The private sector aid agencies of the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Commonwealth, America and France will meet in Johannesburg on July 7 and 8 for a conference to explore business opportunities in Africa for South African companies. The South African Foreign Trade Organisation will host private sector aid agencies, businessmen and investors from Africa and around the world who wish to make contact with South African entrepreneurs. Eleven private sector aid agencies will provide information on access to cross border projects with a step-by-step guide to procedures for implementing projects. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1218 GMT 29 Jun 93)

Employment—Employment in South Africa’s formal economy has increased by only 0.7 percent between 1980 and 1990 while the population had grown by about 2.6 percent per annum during the same period, according to the National Productivity Institute. The economy failed to absorb new entrants to the labour market and unemployment had become a critical problem. Another alarming trend was that more jobs were being created in the public sector rather than in the private sector. Of the 299,000 net new jobs created in the formal economy during the past decade, 36,100 were employed in the government sector while only 25,100 were in the manufacturing sector. Manufacturing was responsible for a quarter of all economic activity and should therefore play an equally important role in creating employment opportunities for the growing population. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 0852 GMT 28 Jun 93)

Inflation Rate Drops—Contrary to expectations, the annual inflation dropped to 10.6 percent in May. A rate of between 11 and 12 percent was expected. The rate was 9 percent in February this year, the first time it dropped

to a single figure in 14 years. Economists say that food price hikes dropped to their lowest level in more than 12 years. That, coupled with price drops in the housing sector, has mainly been responsible for the lower inflation rate. (Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 30 Jun 93)

Gold Price Surges—South Africa and its gold mining industry received a valuable boost yesterday. The gold price surged \$11 to a post-Gulf War high of \$392 an ounce before dropping back to \$388.10. The \$50 an ounce rise in the gold price since March has lifted the earnings of the gold mines by about Rand 270 million a month—some 20 percent. (Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 3 Jul 93 p 1)

ZAMBIA

Magazine To Be Privatized—The South African Development Company, the SADC-owned SOUTHERN AFRICAN ECONOMIC MAGAZINE will be privatized and ways to turn it into a continental magazine are being sought. The minister of information and broadcasting, Dr. Remmy Mushota, said this today when he signed a 150 million kwacha agreement with Swedish ambassador to Zambia, Mr. (Peltek Val). Mr. (Peltek Val) said Sweden came to the aid of the magazine because SADC member states view it as one way of promoting economic cooperation. (Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 1 Jul 93)

CAMEROON

Seminar Discussed Meningitis in North

93WE0437A Yaounde CAMEROON TRIBUNE
in French 27 Apr 93 p 7

[Article by Loumchure Zakari: “Seminar on Meningitis in Yagoua”]

[Text] The public health director [for the Extreme-Nord province], Dr. Nathios Baigora, recently convened his staff for a seminar on cerebrospinal meningitis. From the outset, Dr. Baigora stated that the illness, which is caused by meningococcus, is a public health emergency and that early detection is the means of protecting the largest number of subjects.

Cerebrospinal meningitis, in which the meninges are afflicted by germs of the groups ABCY and W 135 has always appeared in the provinces of the North and the Extreme North. It was also noted that the illness is a serious public health problem, present in 15 countries south of the Sahara, which form a “meningitis belt.” The North and Extreme North provinces of Cameroon fall within the belt, with an incidence that varied from 22 to 49 cases per 100,000 inhabitants between 1986 and 1991, eventually rising to a level of 400 to 970. In Cameroon, 57,000 cases were reported in 1988 and 70,000 cases were reported in 1989.

During the meningitis epidemic of 1992, the infection rate rose to 960 cases per 100,000 inhabitants; there were 7,865 cases per 731 deaths in the Extreme-Nord, and 269 cases per 58 deaths in the Nord. For these reasons, the emphasis has been placed on detection through methodical and continual monitoring. This will enable the specialists to isolate cases presenting primary and secondary warning signs, thus avoiding panic at the slightest case of meningitis. It was recommended that priority be given to the still effective anti-bacterial sulfa drugs.

The authorities were urged to raise public awareness.

Haphazard vaccinations and movements of large numbers of people will be avoided, should an epidemic occur. The personnel attending the seminar pledged to follow the recommendations given so that a common strategy will be applied in combating this terrible illness.

COMOROS

Dengue Epidemic Being Researched

93WE0438A Moroni AL-WATWAN in French
14-20 May 93 p 1

[Article by Ouledi Ahmed, medical entomologist and director of the Anti-Malaria and Anti-Filarisis Program: "The Dengue Epidemic. An Update"]

[Excerpt] Several dozens of people have contracted dengue in the epidemic that began in the Comoros in February. Comorans commonly refer to the illness as "Kotri" (the jacket) because of the intense pain it causes in the joints and back, leaving the sufferer with the impression of wearing a stiff jacket. To date, no deaths directly related to the illness have been reported. However, the scale of the epidemic has prompted the Anti-Malaria and Anti-Filarisis Program—in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, the El-Maarouf Laboratory, and the National Service of Health Statistics—to request the help of the Pasteur Institute of Madagascar (IPM), the only agency in the region specialized in the study of illnesses caused by arboviruses. The IPM has sent a team of three researchers to Moroni to help study the epidemic. As a result, a dual virological and entomological effort was carried out: Blood samples were taken from individuals suffering from dengue to be tested for antibodies of the type IgM and IgG. The initial results are as follows:

Of the first 95 blood samples, 28 of them (29 percent) tested positive for the IgM dengue antibody, which confirms that the dengue virus is in circulation. The research is being pursued at the IPM where attempts are

being made to isolate the virus and determine serotype. The dengue virus is a [?flavivirus] that appears as one of four types (DEN 1 through DEN 4). Each type is serologically different from the other three and no overlapping immunity occurs among the different types.

Adult mosquitoes (imagoes) were captured in a number of villages. The dominant species are Eretmapodites, followed by Aedes aegypti, followed by the much rarer Aedes simpsoni.

Dengue, which is caused by a flavivirus, is one of the viral illnesses transmitted to man and other vertebrates by arthropods. Such viruses are known as arthropod borne viruses or arboviruses.

The arthropod that transmits the virus is the mosquito. In drawing blood from an already infected human or animal, the mosquito ingests the virus, which then multiplies, reaching the salivary glands of the mosquito within a few days. The mosquito then becomes a carrier, transmitting the virus to the uninfected humans that it bites.

In the current epidemic of dengue in the Comoros, the mosquito responsible for transmitting the virus is Aedes aegypti. Its predilection for humans makes it a formidable vector, causing the illness to spread rapidly. [passage omitted]

GHANA

Measles Outbreak Reported in Tamale Area

93WP0172A Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC
in English 6 Mar 93 pp 1, 8-9

[Article by Anthony Tawiah]

[Excerpt] An outbreak of measles in the Tamale municipality and some surrounding villages since mid-February this year has claimed five lives at the Tamale Central Hospital.

Following the outbreak, the children's ward of the hospital has been overcrowded with patients having serious attacks compelling the hospital authorities to convert other wards to the treatment of measles to avoid further spread of the disease.

In an interview with THE GRAPHIC at Tamale on Wednesday, Dr. (Mrs.) Sally Baffour Obeng-Agyei, medical officer at the children's ward said the situation is very threatening in view of the small number of medical officers at the hospital as against the already heavy load of work.

[Passage omitted]

KENYA

Trypanosomiasis Afflicting Tana River District
93WP0168A Nairobi THE KENYA TIMES in English
26 Mar 93 p 23

[Excerpt] Tsetse fly-borne disease trypanosomiasis, poses a major threat to livestock production in Tana River District, the area district veterinary officer, Dr. Duncan Mureithi, said yesterday.

He said that the disease had so far killed hundreds of animals especially in Garsen and Bura divisions where it was prevalent. He said the shortage of the drugs to cure the disease compounded the problem.

Dr. Mureithi was addressing livestock extension officers when closing a two-day seminar on livestock extension at the Hola Social Hall.

He told the participants that the priority was on how to control the flies and not treating the disease. The officer said ticks control was no longer a major problem in the district.

[Passage omitted]

Uganda Cooperating in Trypanosomiasis Control
93WP0168B Nairobi THE KENYA TIMES in English
17 Apr 93 p 13

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing will combat the tsetse fly which infects cattle with trypanosomiasis in most parts of Busia District, the Minister, Mr. Simeon Nyachae said yesterday.

He was opening the sixth Kenya-Uganda harmonisation meeting on tsetse and trypanosomiasis control at a hotel in Kakamega town. An Assistant Minister, Dr. Joseph Misoi, read the speech on behalf of the Minister.

Mr. Nyachae said about 80 percent of Busia was infected with tsetse fly which extended across the border into Tororo and Iganga districts of Uganda.

The area has a human population of 568,000, 5,000 heads of improved cattle breed and 230,000 indigenous breed cattle.

The Minister regretted that though two types of tsetse fly and glossina fuscipes had been reduced by 90 percent reinvasion in the controlled areas can take place.

He attributed this to the continuous capture of mature flies from areas which have not been covered by control programmes.

But Mr. Nyachae expressed satisfaction that the result the effect of reducing animal trypanosomiasis by 40 percent was a reduction in calf mortality from 70 percent to 11 percent with associated increase in milk of 18 percent over the last one year.

Professor Gustavas Ssenyonga, the Ugandan permanent secretary of agriculture, animal industry and fisheries who led the Ugandan delegation, called for joint efforts in eradicating animal diseases and tsetse fly in the two countries.

He was accompanied by Mrs. Hadija Gava, chairperson of Uganda Trypanosomiasis Council.—KNA

Yellow Fever Deaths Report Refuted

93WE0443A Nairobi SUNDAY TIMES in English
9 May 93 p 29

[Text] The Uasin Gishu acting District Commissioner, Mr. Aden Noor Aden, on Friday said medical authorities had established that there is no yellow fever outbreak in the district and that the three people reported to have succumbed had actually died of malaria.

Reacting to pleas from councillors that a vaccination campaign be mounted in the areas Mr. Aden called for calm, saying the reported deaths had been from malaria and hepatitis B.

Mr. Aden was speaking in Eldoret during a full Wareng County Council meeting chaired by the council boss, Councillor Richard Bargoyet. He called on leaders to educate the people on proper hygiene measures to avoid diseases.

Mr. Aden's assurance follows another by medical authorities in the town ruling out a yellow fever outbreak. The authorities said investigations had revealed that it was false alarm.

The District Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Paul Rono, the municipality's MoH, Dr. Charles Walekhwa and the area Public Health Officer, Mr. Wilson Chesang confirmed that yellow fever was not responsible for the deaths.

Speaking during the full council meeting, Councillor Bargoyet called upon elected councillors to respect their nominated colleagues who were "full councillors and not political cohorts." He took exception to remarks by an elected councillor that the nominated civic leaders had won leadership positions "through the window" after being rejected by the electorate.—KNA

MOZAMBIQUE

Changara: Health Program To Save Children
93WE0469A Maputo DOMINGO in Portuguese
13 Jun 93 pp 8-9

[Article by Belmiro Adamugy: "Save the Living"]

[Text] Changara is experiencing the worst drought of the last 10 years. There is no water. Cholera and bloody diarrhea are killing people. The refugees and displaced people are returning on their own. And it is necessary to

save the living. There is a project for the survival of the children. This is solidarity on the march. This is preparing for the future.

Thousands of children and women, particularly women of child-bearing age, are benefiting from a health program called "Project for Infant Survival (PSI)," sponsored by World Vision, a North American religious organization, which has been working in Tete Province since 1984.

The PSI covers 55,000 people in Changara District, a region south of the Zambeze River. The area of operations extends along the main road, which begins at the border with Zimbabwe, to Matambo, and then continues north-east of the city limits to the village of Boroma, DOMINGO learned from Jaime Jose, PSI administrator in Tete.

As this correspondent had an opportunity to observe, in Massawa, a village located near the main Changara road, for example, a solar-powered refrigeration unit has been installed to preserve medicines, and another one has been installed in a health center located in the district seat.

Comprising mobile and stationary teams, the personnel responsible for implementing the PSI operate in 23 villages, most of which are located along the main road. These include, for example, Fuzi, Mazoe, and Chichopene, this last being located in the area of Luenha.

The mobile teams are responsible for supervising, administering, analyzing data, and implementing aspects of sanitation and maternal-infant health and feeding, while the three stationary teams implement the directives of the PSI.

Jaime Jose informed us that it is very important to outfit the existing health posts so that people will go to them and not [rely on] the brigades, since the latter entail fairly high financial and material costs.

In this regard, in the Changara district seat, work is near completion on the improvement of two buildings, one of which is already equipped with a solar-powered refrigeration unit for the preservation of medicines, and a team will be installed there to serve the local population.

Infant Rehabilitation

In the locale of Luenha, where the Changara District seat is situated, the largest center for infant rehabilitation at the district level is in operation.

The center has admitted dozens of children, most of whom are suffering from kwashiorkor and wasting, illnesses caused by malnutrition as a result of food deprivation over a long period.

This reporter spoke with nurse Rita Adriano, who explained how the center operates. She said that at that time more than 42 families were interned there because of their precarious state of health.

Adriano added that once a month the personnel at the center were making inspections in various villages, providing treatment at the locale when necessary and sending those who were most severely affected to the center.

"ALOA, a mixture consisting of powdered milk, oil, and sugar, and also enriched pap made of powdered soybean and corn meal, are given to the people to rehabilitate them. This is extremely nutritious food and, properly administered, speeds the recovery of people suffering from kwashiorkor and wasting disease," the nurse said.

The nutritional center also gives multifaceted support to the Changara Center, Adriano told us; this was confirmed later by the district health director, who is in charge of that center.

At the Changara Nutritional Center, the DOMINGO correspondent was able to observe the emaciated condition of dozens of children interned there under the auspices of the Infant Survival Project.

There they receive medical treatment, their weight and height are monitored, and they are given a highly nutritious diet.

We were told that these measures are part of a broad program, which includes immunization, in which vaccine is administered, and [education for] improved nutrition, which includes breast feeding and how to wean and feed the child. Nutritional education and monitoring of growth are conducted twice a month.

Children in a more advanced stage of malnutrition are enrolled in one of the three therapeutic nourishment programs, located in Boroma, Changara, and Matambo. Malnourished adults, pregnant women, and nursing mothers are also admitted.

Other Activities

Carl Becker told us that, along with the health program, World Vision has been active in other areas, specifically agriculture and food aid.

Concerning the distribution of food, Becker said that it covers Cahora-Bassa, Changara, Moatize, and Angonia districts, as well as the regions of Fingoe, Marowera, and Senda, these latter by means of air bridges.

"Unfortunately, we are not yet covering the zones under the control of the Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance], because we do not have specific information concerning these regions; moreover, many zones—for example, most of Matarara District—have not been cleared of mines, which limits our operations," Becker said.

Regarding agriculture, the official said that the plan, which is not yet being fully implemented for the reasons stated above, is meant to cover all of Tete Province and calls for the distribution of seed and farm implements.

Situation Critical

David Manhacha, deputy administrator of Changara District, summarized the situation in that region, which covers 12,755 square km and has three administrative posts, namely, Luenha, Marara, and Chioco, the last of which is under Renamo control. The population is estimated at 113,425 inhabitants.

"Our district is experiencing a highly critical situation; it is solely dependent on donations," Manhacha began by saying.

He explained that because of the drought, which he called the worst in the last 10 years, the 1991-1992 agricultural campaign was a total failure. "The 1992-1993 campaign would have been reasonably successful, but a plague of grasshoppers destroyed many farms; Marara was most severely affected," he added.

He named sorghum, "mexoeira" [tree with edible nuts], and corn as the principal crops in his district, and noted that although the situation had been difficult in previous years, it had never been this extreme.

Returnees

When the war reached this region, thousands of people took refuge in neighboring Zimbabwe. Now they are coming back. Manhacha described the situation.

"Actually, when the war intensified, the people fled to Zimbabwe and other regions and now they are expressing a desire to come back. We have registered 25,541 people who fled and who are now in Zimbabwe and Malawi."

Manhacha reported that the return of the refugees and displaced people is not being duly controlled, which means that there are no precise figures on how many have already returned and how many have not done so yet. "Because of our financial problems, we are not yet able to organize the return of the people to their place of origin. They are simply returning spontaneously."

Education

"Our district had 46 schools; 30 of them are currently functioning. The others were destroyed and/or shut down because of the war."

The speaker added that Changara had a technical training school, five literacy centers, 37 primary schools, two secondary schools, and a training center, but since most of the people have not yet returned to their zones of origin, it is difficult to conduct the work of rehabilitating the schools and putting them back in operation.

"The General Peace Accord was signed at a time when the displaced people had already started planting their crops elsewhere and they have not taken the risk of abandoning them to return to their native areas."

However, as we observed, at least in the zones where the people have settled, schools are being built with the assistance of World Vision and at least one of them is already in operation.

School Food Program

Within the Infant Survival Project there is a "School Food Program." Anna Henderson, World Vision's administrator in the health area in Tete Province, spoke to us about the program.

"The program covers more than 1,000 children who attend various schools in Changara District and basically consists in serving students one meal a day at school."

To carry out the program, small kitchens have been set up at the schools, where the pap (powdered soybean and corn meal) is prepared. According to the experts, the pap is highly nutritious, since it contains 35 percent of the required calories and 57 percent of the necessary proteins. The students' weight is also being monitored.

The program forms a strong basis for the school-community-World Vision connection, because the schools, at least the newest ones, were built by the people in charge of education, the cooks are from the villages, the religious organization supplies the ingredients for the pap, and the teachers organize the students so that each one receives his or her share.

It is noteworthy that the individuals who are engaged in these activities are not receiving any salary. They only receive a quantity of food products as a form of payment, in a system known as "work for food."

Water Shortage Creates Epidemics

The general health of the district merits particular attention. In a brief conversation with Americo Jose Antonio, medical technician and district health director, we learned that at one time the district had four health centers and six health posts. Because of the war, the latter were reduced to only one, located in the district seat. [sentence as published]

These health units, devoted principally to prevention and cure, are receiving various kinds of assistance, primarily nursing supplies and medicines, from World Vision.

Americo Antonio said that the district has recently been ravaged by two epidemics; namely, cholera (with 390 cases and 44 deaths) and bloody diarrhea (with 2,000 cases and 13 deaths), which have contributed greatly to the rise in the general mortality rate from 9 to 12 percent.

"The problem has been aggravated, first, by the fact that the medicines administered have met with resistance from the diseases and, second, by the fact that the people are not coming to the health posts until they are already in an advanced stage of dehydration," he said.

He indicated that the principal causes for these epidemics were the poor state of health of the people and the crowding of large numbers of people in very limited spaces.

"The water shortage in our district is the other major cause of the diseases and, to some extent, until the shortage is overcome, we will continue to have problems of this kind," he stressed.

NIGERIA

Six Cholera Deaths in Abia State

93WP0170A Lagos THE GUARDIAN in English
6 Apr 93 p 5

[Article by Ben Ulewuoma]

Excerpt] A fresh outbreak of cholera in Abia State has killed six more people, bringing to 7,981 those killed by the disease in the last two years in Nigeria.

A team of epidemiologists was dispatched from Lagos at the week-end to the affected council, Edda Afikpo, by the Federal Health and Social Services Ministry to ascertain extent of the outbreak and casualty rate. It will also engage in health education campaign.

Cholera, an endemic disease in tropical countries—an index of poverty—affected over 63,441 persons in Nigeria in the last two years, killing over 7,975 before it was brought under control.

Health and Social Services Secretary, Dr. Christopher Okojie, who described the fatality rate as unacceptably high in Lagos yesterday, however, explained that 3.3 percent drop in the case fatality rate (CFR) from 13 percent in 1991 to 9.7 percent in 1992 indicated that the control measures adopted by the ministry were yielding positive results.

The team of epidemiologists led by a virologist, Dr. Abdulrami Nasdei, left Lagos with about 20,000 doses of cholera vaccines for Abia State for immunisation.

Okojie said the analysis of past epidemics carried out by the ministry's epidemiologists showed that the outbreaks did occur in 10-year cycle with big outbreaks recorded in 1971, 1981 and 1991.

[Passage omitted]

SOUTH AFRICA

Malaria Becoming Increasing Health Threat

Drugs Recommended

93WE0452B Johannesburg THE STAR in English
7 Jun 93 p 3

[Article by David Robbins: "Malaria Drugs Lose Their Power"]

[Text] Thousands of South Africans risk becoming victims of a worsening malaria epidemic because protective medicines in use have lost their power.

This warning comes from a prominent haematologist (a specialist concerned with diseases of the blood) at the SA Institute of Medical Research at Baragwanath Hospital.

The drugs recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for use in Africa are not even licensed in South Africa. The drugs which are available—and widely used—are considered by experts to be inferior and to carry a higher risk of side effects.

With the opening of South Africa's northern borders, increasing numbers of South African travellers are at risk.

"The continued refusal of the Medicines Control Council to license the recommended prophylactics is a grave disservice to travellers from this country," said Alan Fleming, professor of haematology at the institute and at Wits University.

The drugs recommended by WHO for Africa are chloroquine and proguanil taken together, but proguanil is not licensed in South Africa. Most widely used in South Africa is pyrimethamine combined with chloroquine.

As long ago as September 1991, however, a group of local scientists said this combination "is no longer generally recommended" because of resistance by malaria parasites to pyrimethamine.

The scientists also said this combination could increase the incidence of side effects like gastrointestinal disturbances.

Proguanil, on the other hand, appears to be a superior drug.

Even more effective is another drug, mefloquine, but under certain conditions it produces neuropsychiatric side effects, and it is not recommended for children or pregnant women. Like proguanil, it is not licensed in SA.

Professor Peter Folb, chairman of the Medicines Control Council, is currently overseas, but has been quoted recently as saying the council's decisions are "continually under review as circumstances change".

A spokesman for the council in Pretoria declined to comment further, but confirmed that neither proguanil nor mefloquine had yet been registered in South Africa.

Drug Resistance

93WE0452A Johannesburg THE STAR in English
10 Jun 93 p 15

[Article by David Robbins: "Malaria: A Growing Menace"; first paragraph is introductory paragraph]

[Text] Malaria is on the increase throughout the world as malarial parasites become increasingly resistant to the armoury of drugs which medical science has developed to combat this deadly disease. What is the situation locally, and what impact will new research have on the world epidemic? Health Writer David Robbins reports.

More than 300 million people will contract malaria worldwide this year and up to 2 million will die.

In Africa, it is estimated that 100 million people—one in three—have the disease and about 1 million of them will die.

Apart from northern Natal and KwaZulu, the Transvaal lowveld and the Limpopo basin, South Africa is not a malaria country. We're certainly not in the same league as the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. Nevertheless the incidence of malaria is increasing dramatically here.

More than 2,500 cases were reported in the first three months of this year, compared to 1,017 cases for the same period in 1992. The incidence of malaria has been dropping steadily since 1987, but if the present trend continues, 1993 could see the highest figure over the past 30 years.

Even on the Witwatersrand, the figures give cause for concern, although it is not possible to acquire malaria here. Johannesburg health officials report a sharp increase of the disease among the white population.

Drought

The weather is partly to blame for these increases, in particular the breaking of the drought which afflicted much of southern Africa during the first years of the present decade.

But the increases also illustrate South Africa's closer relationship with the rest of the subcontinent since 1990, and also the decreasing efficacy of the prophylactic drugs taken by South Africans travelling into high-risk malaria areas like the Zambezi basin, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Zambia.

The most effective drugs for these countries are not registered here. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends a combination of chloroquine and proguanil as the most effective prophylactic for use in Africa. This includes northern Natal, but not the eastern Transvaal lowveld where chloroquine alone is still considered sufficient protection.

But proguanil is not licensed by the Medicines Control Council. Neither is mefloquine, a more recent drug.

The truth is that even proguanil and mefloquine are losing their potency as malaria parasites show increasing resistance to them. The same must be said about chloroquine. The parasites are even learning to resist quinine.

Since malaria exists in a broad band along the equator, the worst affected countries are all Third World. Put another way, from the point of view of major Western pharmaceutical manufacturers, there's not a lot of money to be made in attempting to research more effective anti-malarial drugs.

The cynics say we need another war, since most major advances were made in an attempt to protect Western soldiers fighting in malaria-ridden countries like Vietnam.

The Third World says otherwise, however, and scientists in China and Colombia are coming up with research in which Western scientists are now taking a keen interest. Two advances are worth mentioning.

The first is qinghaosu or artemisinin. Derived from a Chinese herb which has been used for medicinal purposes since before Christ, artemisinin was found in the early 1970s to have anti-malarial properties.

Artemisinin drugs were also tested on 141 cases of cerebral malaria, a complication which normally ends in death. Mortality was reduced to 7 percent.

According to medical scientists writing in *The Lancet* in March this year, two more years of tests will be necessary before the efficacy of artemisinin is fully established.

The scientists also warn that the build-up of resistance to the drug is a distinct possibility.

"Since these (Chinese) drugs are such valuable alternatives to quinine for severe malaria, it would be disastrous if their unlimited use for uncomplicated malaria and availability in the marketplace led to the rapid development of resistance."

The second advance from the Third World is SPf66, a chemically synthesised vaccine developed by Manuel Patarroyo in Colombia.

Patarroyo's approach to the problem of producing a vaccine against an organism which is in a constant state of mutation was, in simple terms, to create a chemical caricature of a basic malaria parasite in all its life-cycle mutations against which the vaccinated person can build up some resistance.

Tests so far have shown fair results with average efficacy during tests 33 percent.

Gone is the optimism of the 1950s and 1960s when it was thought that widespread spraying with DDT would eradicate the disease entirely. Indeed, malaria experts now agree that eradication is impossible.

Ideal Conditions

Learning to live with the disease and with the 30 different species of *Anopheles* mosquitoes which transmit it is not easy. Some of the classic activities of developing countries actively promote malaria. Forest clearing for agriculture and the untidiness of urbanisation and informal settlements create conditions which are ideal for the rapid breeding of mosquitoes.

To fight the disease, attention is shifting from prophylaxis to avoidance of contact with the mosquito. Clean environments and the prompt treatment of water pools

are now being encouraged, as is the wearing of clothing which adequately protects the limbs.

Most important of all in the fight against mosquitoes which feed at night is the good old-fashioned bed net, but these days soaked in insecticide.

Most South Africans are not in the direct firing line, but enough of us are, and our borders are sufficiently close and open to one of the major centres of malaria for all of us to take the disease very seriously indeed.

[Begin boxed item p 15]

Research Now Uses DNA Technology

"A lot of people think that the solution to malaria is to kill off all the Anopheles mosquitoes," says Dr. Richard Hunt. "But it's not as simply as that."

Hunt is head of the Department of Medical Entomology at the South African Institute of Medical Research.

"The point is they're not all deadly," he explains. "Take *Anopheles gambiae*, Africa's most dangerous group of species. It's composed of no less than six morphologically identical species, some of which carry the malaria parasite, some of which don't."

The accurate identification of malaria-carrying mosquitoes occupies most of Hunt's time, and is the main thrust of the research taking place in his department.

He explains the stages through which this research has developed. First mosquitoes were cross-mated and their offspring examined, but this was a tedious procedure.

Then an Italian discovered that identification was possible by comparing the banding patterns on the mosquitoes' chromosomes. In more recent years, chemical methods of identification were developed.

"Now we're using DNA technology for the identification process," says Hunt.

[End boxed item]

Health Status 'One of Worst in World'

MB1407162693 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1435 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Johannesburg July 14 SAPA—South Africa's health status relative to income was one of the worst in the world, the World Bank said in its latest development report. According to the report, 53 percent of South African children aged between two and five in the 1980s suffered from stunting as a result of malnutrition. This compared with an average of 39 percent in the rest of Africa.

The annual incidence of tuberculosis in South Africa of 250 cases per 100,000 was nearly 15 percent above the African average and more than 10 times the rate of

developed countries. In 1990/91, 63 percent of children in South Africa younger than one received immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus. This compared with 89 percent of Zimbabwean children and 79 percent of Zambian children receiving the required shots.

Reacting to the report Medical Research Council executive Dr. Derek Yach said that while R[Rand]22 billion was spent on health care in South Africa, of which about half was spent on private health care, the World Bank report suggested that this was not buying the level of health care the average African could expect.

Health status was determined by how a country spent on its resources and not how much. Too much money was spent on expensive tertiary health care and not enough on primary care. Primary expenditure was also erratic and not sustainable.

Dr. Yach said breast-feeding was not promoted and school-based programmes for safe sex, deworming, tobacco and alcohol abuse were virtually non-existent, despite being highly cost-effective.

"Health for all is possible in South Africa, but requires among other things, political commitment at national, regional and local levels to ensure that healthy public policy is maintained."

ZAMBIA

Cholera Almost Under Control in Mpika

93WE0442A Lusaka TIMES OF LUSAKA in English
22 May 93 p 2

[Text] Cholera has almost been brought under control in Chief Nabwalya's area in Mpika after claiming 98 lives but in a new development malnutrition cases have shot up at an alarming rate.

Northern Province Minister Mr. Daniel Kapapa said in Kasama yesterday in an interview that 12 of the health workers who were ferried to the area in a Zambia Air Force helicopter to curb the disease had been withdrawn.

Mr. Kapapa said the last group that remained would also be recalled after 10 days when the people who were still being treated will be discharged.

He said all measures should be taken to ensure that malnutrition cases which have shot up suddenly are brought under control before several children lose their lives.

It was also learnt that the more than 300 people who were camped in Mpika after fleeing from Nabwalya because of the disease have gone back to their villages.

When the medical workers were flown to Nabwalya they also had the problem of burying several bodies of cholera victims which were left lying about by relatives who were fearing to contract the disease.

But Mr. Kapapa warned that Nabwalya will continue being haunted by killer diseases if the people in the surrounding villages do not improve on hygiene.

He said of the 98 deaths, Buzimina village recorded 23 deaths, Kalumba 18, Nabwalya 21, while two were recorded in Mpika.

Before the helicopter was released to ferry medical workers to Nabwalya, the disease had already spread to 10 villages and more than 300 people had fled to Mpika where they were camped at one place.

When the disease broke out late last month, it claimed 30 lives within four days and Mr. Kapapa appealed to the Government to release the helicopter for the exercise because of the impassable roads.

The beds, and other items which were taken to the area in the ZAF helicopter will be taken back to Mpika in 10 days' time after the people working on the road finish grading it.

Mr. Kapapa said it was surprising that pit latrines in most of the areas in Nabwalya were non-existent.

Kazembe's area which had 70 houses only had four pit latrines while Mbuzimba which had 12 houses only had one pit latrine and Mondoloka which had 12 houses also only had one pit latrine.

All the people in the villages relied on river water which was not good for drinking.

ZIMBABWE

Slight Decline of TB in Manicaland

*93WP0169B Harare THE HERALD in English
2 Apr 93 p 4*

[Text] Mutare—The number of people with tuberculosis in Manicaland Province was slightly lower in 1992 than the previous year but cases of patients who fail to respond to treatment have increased, a spokesman for the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare said yesterday.

In an interview, provincial environmental health officer in the ministry, Cde Andrew Ruwende, said in 1991, 2,153 TB cases were reported in the province while 2,067 were reported last year.

"As you can see, there is a slight decrease in the number of TB cases, but we do not know yet what could be attributed to this. But one thing which is clear is that relapses are on the increase," he said.

He said TB specimens which the ministry had sent for further tests revealed that 70 percent of them came from people with HIV infection.

In 1991, he said, there were 116 cases of TB which relapsed with 170 resulting in deaths from the disease. Last year there were 145 relapses and 154 deaths.—Ziana.

Eighty Malaria Deaths in Matabeleland North

*93WP0169C Harare THE HERALD in English
3 Apr 93 p 1*

[Text] More than 80 people have died of malaria in Matabeleland North since mid-February, a provincial Ministry of Health and Child Welfare official said yesterday.

The official said since mid-February, 50,000 malaria cases had been reported in the province. The most affected areas were Binga, Hwange, Tsholotsho and Lupane.

"We recorded the highest number of malaria cases and deaths in the second half of March. Since then the number of reported cases and the mortality rate have been steadily going down," he said.

Binga had the highest number of deaths with 27 having died since mid-[phrase illegible] recorded the second highest with 25, Hwange had about 20 deaths while Nkayi and Tsholotsho had a few, which brought the total to more than 80.

"The situation in Tsholotsho and Nkayi is less serious but we have extended spraying of mosquitoes to control malaria to these two districts," he said.

The ministry had given more chloroquine tablets to village community health workers to enable them to treat affected people before the disease got to an advanced stage.

"We hope that as the colder months approach the malaria outbreak will be under control," said the official.

Four Cholera Deaths in Shamva District

*93WP0169D Harare THE HERALD in English
12 Apr 93 p 6*

[Text] A fresh cholera outbreak has been reported in Shamva district, Mashonaland Central. The provincial environmental health officer, Cde Mark Chibanda, told the provincial civil protection committee at the weekend that cases were first diagnosed on March 20.

He said four people have already died and at least 40 cases reported. The outbreak was mainly rampant in small mining and farming areas, along the Pote River, where sanitary conditions were reported to be poor.—ZIS.

Fourteen More Cholera Deaths in Week Period

93WP0169E Harare *THE HERALD* in English
16 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] A further 14 people died from cholera last week while 100 more contracted the disease which affected 6,677 people and claimed 307 lives since the first outbreak was reported in November last year.

Mashonaland Central reported the highest number of cases, 85 and 14 deaths, Manicaland recorded 13 new cases.

Masvingo and Mashonaland West had each one new case who are both recovering.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, said out of the 131 established cholera treatment centres 117 centres were no longer receiving patients.

New Cholera Outbreak in Muzarabani

93WE0444D Harare *THE HERALD* in English
26 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] A fresh outbreak of cholera in the Dambakurimwa area of Muzarabani has resulted in the death of one woman, Member of Parliament for Centenary Cde Border Gezi said on Saturday.

Addressing a meeting of residents in Muzarabani, Cde Gezi said he was trying to contact the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare to persuade them to erect cholera

outbreak camps at Mupfudzi to cater for the people of Dambakurimwa and Kapembere areas.

Cde Gezi warned that the situation could deteriorate further with more deaths occurring in the affected areas if measures to control the disease were not taken as a matter of urgency.

"The cause of the cholera outbreak in this area is due to poor sanitary conditions, and many people are subjected to drinking dirty water from Musengezi River because of lack of adequate boreholes in Centenary."—Ziana.

Malaria Kills Ninety People in Midlands

93WE0444C Harare *THE HERALD* in English
7 May 93 p 1

[Text] Gweru—Malaria has claimed 90 lives in Gokwe and Kwekwe districts out of a total of 27,851 malaria cases reported in the two districts this year, Midlands provincial medical director Dr Davis Dhlakama said here yesterday.

He said in an interview that during the first four months of this year, 61 people died from malaria in Gokwe district out of 27,319 malaria cases reported.

Gokwe, which has 38 health institutions, had 54 deaths due to malaria last year out of 26,202 cases reported.

In Kwekwe district, which has 17 health institutions, 29 people died from malaria out of 532 cases reported, showing a 4.5 percent fatality rate in the district.

He said it was clear that there was an increase in malaria cases in Gokwe which last year recorded fewer deaths in the entire year.—Ziana.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Southeast Asia Epidemiology Roundup 21-30 May BK0106041493

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of summaries of foreign media reports on Southeast Asian and South Asian epidemiology developments monitored by Bangkok Bureau between 21 May and 27 May 1993. Sourcelines are given in parentheses after each item.

LAOS

Diarrhea Outbreak Reported in Savannakhet Province

A report from Savannakhet Province said that since 4 May, a diarrhea epidemic has spread in three cantons in Phin District of Savannakhet Province. The most serious cases were reported from Na Kano village. According to the latest statistics from the district, seven persons have already died from the disease and more than 100 others hospitalized at the district hospital. A lack of sanitation habits among local residents is presumed to be the cause of the epidemic. Medicine has already been distributed among local people to prevent a further outbreak of the disease.

The report also said that in 1992, out of more than 4,000 children and infants affected by the disease in 13 zones in Savannakhet Province, 30 were killed, mostly in Champhon District. (Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 30 May 93)

SINGAPORE

Over 170 Dengue Fever Cases Reported in First Five Months

There were more than 170 cases of dengue fever in the first five months of the year. In the past few weeks, five cases were reported. An Environment Ministry spokesman said the number of people contracting dengue fever is not alarming. (Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 27 May 93)

THAILAND

AIDS Prevention Office Opens in Chiang Mai

The Thailand-Australia Northern AIDS Prevention and Care Programme Office was opened on Tuesday in Chiang Mai in a combined effort to counter the spread of HIV/AIDS in the North.

Australian Minister for Development Cooperation Gordon Bilney said yesterday the office would become an important focus in community AIDS awareness training and care programmes in the North.

"More than four million Thais may be suffering from HIV by the year 2000," he said.

"Many of the victims will be from hilltribes such as the Akha, Lahu and Karen in the northern region."

Mr. Bilney said the office would help bring together Thai and Australian expertise, especially in the area of AIDS education and awareness. (Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 May 93)

AIDS Awareness Campaigns, Preventive Measures Noted

The Interior Ministry will spend nearly half of the government's Bt388-million anti-AIDS fund for this year while the Education Ministry is to get about one quarter of the money to spend on awareness campaigns and preventive measures.

Phaichit Phawabut, permanent secretary for the Public Health Ministry, said yesterday the ministry had distributed funds to 12 other ministries after earmarking Bt64 million for its own anti-AIDS programme.

The Interior Ministry, whose Local Administration Department (LAD) is responsible for communicable disease control will receive Bt180 million. The Education Ministry will get Bt98 million.

The Defence Ministry is to get Bt9 million, the Agriculture Ministry has been allocated Bt15 million and the University Affairs Ministry will get Bt2 million.

The rest is to be shared among other ministries.

Phaichit said the government's anti-AIDS fund will be spent on programmes in which the private sector will be encouraged to participate.

The aim is to contain the spread of the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and the virus that causes it, the permanent secretary said. (Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 May 93)

Health Ministry Cites Dengue Fever Statistics

The Public Health Ministry has warned about increases in dengue fever this year. It notes that the incidence of dengue fever has increased every year, particularly during the rainy season between May and July. During the first five months of this year, 2,329 students have been afflicted, ten have died. (Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 21 May 93)

VIETNAM

Dong Nai Province Establishes AIDS Prevention Committee

The Pasteur Institute tested five people who were HIV-positive, all of them were drug addicts between the ages of 18-25.

A committee for AIDS prevention and control has been set up in Dong Nai. The provincial authorities have also decided to reserve 3 billion dong for a propaganda and education program against AIDS and the construction of a testing center. A directive from the Public Health Service has also been released to local hospitals advising them to perform blood transfusions only if the blood has

been HIV-tested. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 May 93)

Quang Tri Reports Communicable Diseases Increasing

The public health service of the province revealed that during the period from 1990-92, 316 people, most of them prostitutes, were found infected with sexually transmitted diseases. The Public Health Service also warned that the number of people with these communicable diseases was on the rise, while the local authority has not yet carried out any measures to curb drug addiction and prostitution in the province. There are also concerns about AIDS in the province as many AIDS-carriers have been discovered in Quang Tri's neighboring provinces. A committee for prevention and control of AIDS has been formed but it has no budget to start operating. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 May 93)

Typhoid Epidemic in Kien Giang Province Noted

Since early March 1993, typhoid has erupted on a large scale in Kien Giang Province. Some 2,990 people have suffered from the disease. Of them, two have died. It is further reported that the Ministry of Public Health has, in coordination with the provincial public health office, successfully stamped out the epidemic. (Hanoi Vietnam Television Network Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 May 93)

Kien Giang Typhoid Epidemic Affecting Children

In the three districts of U Minh Thuong, An Minh, and Vinh Thuan, 2,850 cases were reported, 80 percent of them were children. An Minh District alone had 2,134 patients. The local medical authority has taken immediate action by sending medical staff and nearly 100 million dong worth of medication to help patients in these areas. By now the typhoid fever is no longer spreading, 2,670 patients were cured, and only two patients died. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 29 May 93)

Regional Epidemiology Roundup 7-21 June

BK2306104193

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of summaries of foreign media reports on Southeast Asian and South Asian Epidemiology developments monitored by Bangkok Bureau from 7 Jun to 21 June 1993. Source-lines are given in parentheses after each item.

BANGLADESH

Floods Bring Water-Borne Diseases; Over One Hundred Die

Water-borne disease has struck flood-hit areas in Bangladesh, as the death toll from three weeks of downpours surpassed 100, officials and news reports said Monday.

In the northeastern District of Sylhet, officials said diarrhea and fever hit the area claiming two lives. Diarrhea has also hit the small Monpura Island off the

coast of Bangladesh, killing five and attacking some 500 islanders over the past 15 days. Nearly 1,500 people died across Bangladesh from intestinal disease between January and March this year. (Hong Kong AFP in English 0537 GMT 21 Jun 93)

INDONESIA

Official Fears Number of AIDS Cases May 'Double or Triple'

By the end of this year, the number of AIDS patients in Indonesia may double or triple the current number of 139 cases. This projection is based on the current situation and the fact that there were less than 100 AIDS patients in 1989-90. This was disclosed by the chairman of the AIDS Information Center, in Denpasar today. He said the pattern of AIDS infection in Indonesia has reached the third type, namely, infection via contact with foreigners, including tourists, as well as through Indonesians who travel overseas. (Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 17 Jun 93)

Number of Hemorrhagic Fever Cases Increases in West Java

The number of hemorrhagic fever cases has increased in several districts in West Java. The public relations officer of the West Java Provincial Office of the Health Department, said the office has been monitoring the situation, particularly after 25 patients were treated for the disease in Tangerang. She admitted that the death toll from the disease was high in the province. During the 1991-1992 period, 122 of the 2,800 people infected with the disease died. During the 1992-1993 period, 2,669 people contracted the disease, 102 of whom died. (Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 7 Jun 93)

LAOS

Sekong Hospital Reports on Malaria, Other Diseases

Sekong Provincial Hospital discovered that 306 people in the province were afflicted with the malaria virus in the first half of this year. The number represents 70.40 percent of the 430 patients who received malaria blood tests. Of this number, 108 children under five years of age were afflicted with malaria. Four people have died of the disease so far this year.

Apart from malaria, the hospital disclosed that 60 persons were found to suffer diarrhea and dysentery, or 13.8 percent of the patients, and 23 persons were found to have problems with their respiratory system, or 1.38 percent of the patients receiving medical treatment at the hospital. (Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Jun 93)

MALAYSIA

New Cholera Cases in Perak State Confirmed

A 48-year old woman and an eight-month old baby girl in Taiping, Perak have been confirmed to be suffering from cholera. The district hospital medical superintendent said on 12 June that they were admitted two days ago. He said they could have contacted the disease elsewhere before returning to Taiping. The hospital's cholera ward was activated in April after 36 cases were reported in the district. [Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Jun 93]

THAILAND

Ministry To Change Anti-AIDS Tactics as Epidemic Worsens

A Public Health Ministry official admitted yesterday that the ministry's anti-AIDS campaign in the past had failed. Dr Prayun Khunason, director-general of the Department of Communicable Disease Control, said workers are among the highest number of those infected with the killer disease, followed by farmers, civil servants, teenagers and businessmen, respectively.

Last year, he said there were 1,125 full-blown AIDS cases, most of them aged between 20-38. He said there were now 2,235 AIDS- Related Complex (ARC) cases and estimated that there were between 300,000-400,000 HIV carriers in the country. In February, the Public Health Ministry said the largest number of AIDS cases was recorded in Chiang Mai with 328, followed by another northern city Chiang Rai with 218, and Bangkok with 182. For ARC cases, Bangkok was first with 376, Chiang Rai second with 285, and Chiang Mai third with 178. Broken down by occupation, labourers accounted for 524 of the AIDS cases and 595 of the ARC cases. Farm hands accounted for 306 of the AIDS cases and 244 of the ARC cases. Of those who suffer from full-blown AIDS and those who developed AIDS-related symptoms, 2,777 were heterosexual men, 415 women, 76 homosexual men, 499 drug addicts, 262 babies, 23 cases obtained AIDS through blood transfusions, and 222 cases of unclear sources of infection, Prayun said. He said there are still a large number of people trying to conceal their AIDS infection, particularly prostitutes estimated to number around 70,000-80,000. Of these, 25 percent of the prostitutes had contracted AIDS, but only 110 had sought help at hospitals.

Meanwhile, Deputy Public Health Minister Anek Thar-sawan said yesterday the ministry will soon switch strategies in its anti-AIDS campaign aimed at entertainment places. He said the ministry will ask them to play "four steps to keep off AIDS" tapes for service girls and their clients. (Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Jun 93; also filed as bk2306102393)

Seminar Views Capacity To Treat AIDS

Within 10 years it is likely AIDS will overcome Thailand's medical capacity to treat infected patients, Mag-saysay Award winner Professor Dr. Prawat Wasi told a seminar here yesterday. "If nothing is done to keep AIDS in check, within 10 years hospitals may not be able to

cope with an ever increasing number of patients," he told the AIDS seminar here. The rate of AIDS infection in Thailand is now very high, especially in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, and Phayao Provinces, and in Bangkok.

Between 300,000 and 400,000 people nationwide are believed to be carrying the AIDS virus. Several thousand have developed full-blown AIDS or AIDS-related symptoms. Dr. Thawisak Nopkeson, of the Third Army Region, told the seminar that research into the number of Army recruits infected with HIV confirmed the serious nature of the AIDS threat in Thailand. Thawisak said a random sampling of 400 recruits indicated that about three percent were HIV infected overall. Infection rates were highest in Phayao Province, where 20 percent of recruits displayed HIV anti-bodies, 17 percent in Chiang Rai, 14 percent in Chiang Mai, and six percent of recruits in Bangkok. (Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Jun 93)

Officials Support AIDS Vaccine Tests

The chief of the Public Health Committee on Clinical Tests yesterday said any vaccine for the deadly disease AIDS can be tested on Thai people as long as it is guaranteed to be safe by the producer. Dr. Withun Saengsingkaeo told a committee meeting on AIDS vaccines in Phatthaya that if the vaccine has been proven to be safe by its producer as well as some other countries, then it will be allowed for clinical trials in Thailand. However, he said the authorities would conduct a study on the particular vaccine before it can be tried on people. The vaccine GP 120 will be brought in from the United States soon. According to doctors, the vaccine was clinically tested in the United Staes and won approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). (Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 93)

VIETNAM

'Remarkable Success' Curing Leprosy Noted

The dermatology service has achieved remarkable success since 1982 by curing and returning to normal life tens of thousands of lepers. In 1982, the Ministry of Public Health launched a nationwide "Programme to Eradicate Leprosy Area by Area." The leprosy incidence has dropped from 0.21 percent nationwide in 1959 to 0.05 percent at present. However, the disability of leprosy sufferers remains a big problem. According to latest statistics, there are nearly 12,000 lepers in the four provinces of the central Vietnam high plateau alone (Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Darlac, and Lam Dong). The total would be almost 16,000 if patients in the other mountain provinces were taken into account. The majority of them are members of ethnic minorities living scattered in the mountainous areas and about 60 percent of the patients detected in the recent survey are in the active contagious stage of the disease. National efforts are afoot to eradicate leprosy by the year 2000. (Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 20 Jun 93)

Regional Epidemiology Roundup 16 June - 1 July
BK1207031593

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of summaries of foreign media reports on Southeast Asian and South Asian Epidemiology developments monitored by Bangkok Bureau from 16 June to 1 July 1993. Sourcelines are given in parentheses after each item.

INDONESIA

Government Expands Blood Tests To Combat AIDS

The government is stepping up its anti-AIDS campaign by launching more blood testing programs for 150,000 high risk people throughout Indonesia. The health authorities will also test 700,000 regular blood donors at the Indonesian Red Cross for HIV. The government plans to establish a national body to coordinate its anti-AIDS campaign. In the last three years, blood tests have been conducted on 45,800 people and 10 have been found either HIV positive or already carrying AIDS. However, according to Ministry of Health records, there are 140 known cases of HIV infection here, but officials said the actual figure could be as high as 20,000 across the country. The government will also expand health service coverage in the country, allocating more of the budget to finance 24,290 community health centers and 4,989 mobile clinics. The government has increased its health budget by 16.3 percent in the current fiscal year to 762.4 billion rupiah (\$370 million) from 655.7 billion in the 1992/93 fiscal year in its effort to improve health services for the poor in both rural and urban areas. (Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 18 Jun 93; also filed as bk2906102393)

LAOS

Provinces To Conduct Blood Tests for AIDS

The secretary of the national anti-AIDS committee recently said that since early this year, after conducting blood tests on more than 10,000 people in the country, the committee discovered that 20 are HIV-positive. Many AIDS-infected persons also died of the disease in late 1992. In order to prevent and control the spread of the disease, the committee has dispatched anti-AIDS authorities to many provinces to carry out blood tests among various risk groups. The highest number of AIDS cases has been found among persons returning home from abroad, including refugees repatriated from other countries. (Vientiane Vithayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 29 Jun 93)

Diarrhea Epidemic Reported in Savannakhet Province

Recently, a severe diarrhea epidemic occurred in Nong and Sepon Districts, Savannakhet Province, in early June this year. However, the epidemic has now been brought under control by medical authorities. Eleven out of 111 persons afflicted by the disease in Nong District died, while another 23 out of more than 200 patients

died in Sepon District. (Vientiane Vithayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Jun 93)

MALAYSIA

Health Official Releases Dengue Figures

About 50 percent of the 203 dengue cases reported in the city in the past six months were within the Ipoh City Council area. The State Medical and Health Services director said there were 106 cases as of June 15. He also said 10 of the 22 dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases reported in the state were in the city. "The DHF claimed two victims," he said when releasing the latest figures on the dengue situation. He said that during the same period last year there were 34 dengue fever (DF) and four DHF cases in the city. There were 282 dengue cases in the state last year including 31 DHF cases, but no deaths.

In Kinta, 36 DF cases were reported; Manjung 17; Kuala Kangsar 11; Taiping Municipal Council seven; Larut, Matang, and Selama five; Batang Padang 11; Perak Tengah three; Kerla six; and Hilir Perak one case.

As for DHF, Kinta had six cases, and Batang Padang and Manjung three each. (Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Jun 93)

SINGAPORE

Number of Tuberculosis Cases Decreases

The number of tuberculosis cases in Singapore last year has gone down after an alarming rise in 1991. Last year, Singapore had 1,778 cases compared with 1,841 in 1991, a drop of about 5 percent. The Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Association also saw fewer cases last year—164, compared with 232 in 1991. The latest figures include both residents and non-residents, and give an incidence rate of 65 people out of every 100,000. The drop is reason to be "cautiously pleased" as Hong Kong suffers double this incidence rate, while the rate in the Philippines is four times that of Singapore. (Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Jun 93)

THAILAND

Three Percent of Military Personnel Are HIV Carriers

An official from the Third Army Region disclosed that 3 percent of military personnel nationwide are HIV carriers. According to a study, the percentage of HIV-infected military conscripts in Phayao Province is 20, Chiang Rai 17, Chiang Mai 14, Phrae 6, and Bangkok 3. He attributed the spread of the diseases to sexual promiscuity, unlimited consumerism, and lack of ethics in Thai society. (Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 29 Jun 93)

AIDS Cases Increasing Among Housewives

The Epidemiology Division of the Public Health Ministry recently announced that AIDS cases among housewives have increased from 0.7 percent of total cases in 1992 to one percent of total cases this year. In Thailand, it is estimated that there will be 400,000 HIV-positive

cases by the end of this year. The ministry will focus its campaign against AIDS in the "family" group, and will concentrate its programs in villages among women's groups, youths, and monks so they can spread knowledge about the disease to other villagers. (Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jun 93)

Researcher Says AIDS Detection Not 100 Percent Reliable

The director of the Medical Science Research Institute recently stated that the present AIDS virus detection method is not totally reliable. He said the search for the virus through inspecting protein in the blood, conducted by many countries including Thailand, is inaccurate and does not indicate accurately whether or not a person is infected. For a 100 percent accurate result, blood has to be cultured in a much more complicated way. However, he said that an effective AIDS vaccine is unlikely in the next 15 to 20 years because of the fast mutation of the HIV virus. (Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jun 93)

Group Wins Award for Rabies Research

A group of Chulalongkorn University doctors has been awarded for outstanding research in the rabies field. Their work led to the end of use of two old vaccines which were blamed for various side-effects. The new method of giving vaccines is as effective as the old method but cheaper, thus allowing low-income patients to afford care. (Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jun 93)

VIETNAM

Malaria, Hemorrhagic Fever Reported in Ben Tre

During the first five months of 1993, many cases of malaria and hemorrhagic fever were reported in Ben Tre Province, especially its three coastal districts. Malaria, which claimed five lives, accounted for 3,000 cases and hemorrhagic fever 1,000 cases but without mortality. Measures have been stepped up by the provincial Public Health Service to control these two diseases, including distributing more than 8,400 mosquito nets and immunizing 15,600 people. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Jun 93)

Cao Bang Educating Locals in Malaria Prevention

By the end of June, Cao Bang Malaria Station had treated over 18,000 patients for malaria. The station has also helped the districts and villages educate local people to apply hygienic measures in preventing the spread of the disease. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 18 June 93)

Several Provinces Report Encephalitis Epidemic

A recent encephalitis epidemic has been reported in the Provinces of Bac Thai, Hai Hung, Ha Tay, and Ha Bac. This year by early summer, 156 children had been admitted to the Infectious Disease Ward in the Vietnam

Children's Protection Institute. The institute formerly treated between 500-600 child patients per year, with a death rate of about 4 percent. The number of children suffering long term disabilities after treatment is also high. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 June 93)

Goiter Situation in Cao Bang Province Discussed

About 250,000 people, or over 50 percent of the provincial population, are suffering goiter. Most patients are minority ethnic people living in highland localities. The province's medical service has completed its investigation and classification research on the patients and has set up a plan for 1993 by which 15,000 goiter patients will be treated with specialized medication. The province also plans to subsidize the price of 2,500 tonnes of iodine salt which will be consumed in 1993. (Hanoi Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 June 93)

Australian Grant To Aid Polio Eradication Efforts

Vietnam, Australia, and Hanoi-based UNICEF have signed an agreement on Australian financial support for Vietnam's fight against poliomyelitis. Over three years, the Australian Government will channel 1.5 million US dollars to UNICEF Vietnam—one of the main sponsors for the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in Vietnam. Most of the grant will be used for purchasing vaccines against polio, while the remaining sum will be used to support other activities of Vietnam's EPI. A rate of more than 80 percent of targeted children has been covered by EPI over the past several years. With such efforts the number of children admitted to pediatric departments throughout the country has decreased markedly over the past several years. (Hanoi VNA in English 1413 GMT 1 Jul 93)

Regional Epidemiology Roundup 30 June - 12 July

BK1407080393

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of summaries of foreign media reports on Southeast Asian and South Asian Epidemiology developments monitored by Bangkok Bureau from 30 June to 12 July 1993. Sourcelines are given in parentheses after each item.

AUSTRALIA

State Environment Minister: Plant Offers AIDS Cure Hope

Authorities in Western Australia say a native shrub, the (?plume) smoke-bush, contains a chemical which shows promise as a treatment against the AIDS virus. The United States' National Cancer Institute has applied for a patent to the chemical which comes from the plant. The Environment Ministry is assisting in providing the institute with supplies of the plant for testing. (Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 6 Jul 93)

BANGLADESH

Separate Directorate To Help Control AIDS

A separate directorate under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will be set up soon to prevent and control AIDS in Bangladesh. Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said this when he met the director of the international AIDS program of the World Health Organization. (Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 11 Jul 93)

INDIA

Seventy Percent of World Rabies Cases Reported in Country

About 70 percent of the fatal rabies cases in the world are reported from India. According to a survey conducted the world over by the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in Asia, about 25,000 people out of 35,000 were killed in India in 1992. (Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Jul 93)

INDONESIA

Ministry Records 38 AIDS, 149 HIV Cases

The health minister said today that the Health Department has recorded a total of 38 people suffering from AIDS and 149 people carrying the HIV virus. He also disclosed that the government has set up a team to handle AIDS cases and to prevent the deadly disease from spreading. (Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Jul 93)

LAOS

Epidemics in Savannakhet, Saravane Provinces

An epidemic of malaria, diarrhea, and dysentery has broken out since late June in several villages in Viangkhai area, Saibouli District, Savannakhet Province. The villages are Ban Keng Veng, Ban Nong Veng, Ban Lao, Ban Thoung Phoukha, Ban Viangkhai, and Ban Khonabeu. Eighty-three people have been afflicted with malaria, while 21 have suffered from diarrhea and dysentery. Local administrations have provided urgent medical services and assistance and have successfully stopped the spread of the diseases.

In Saravane Province, Sam-oi District, measles and dysentery spread vigorously in three remote villages—Ban Kho, Ban A-lop, and Ban A-tang—on 2 and 3 July. In Ban A-lop, out of 45 people afflicted with measles and 20 with dysentery, 10 have died. Medical cadres have been urgently dispatched by the Public Health Service of the district to battle the diseases. (Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 11 Jul 93)

Antihemorrhagic Campaign Continues in Vientiane

Since late June officials of the Public Health Service of Vientiane Municipality have continuously launched a campaign to create public awareness in an effort to

prevent and eradicate hemorrhagic disease in various villages in four districts in Vientiane Municipality. Knowledge is disseminated by directly approaching the people and through loud speakers from mobile units moving from area to area. The campaign is complete in four villages in Sisaththanak District, but the effort will continue for an indefinite period. (Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 12 Jul 93)

SINGAPORE

Mutant Strain of Hepatitis B Virus Discovered

A mutant strain of the Hepatitis B virus has been discovered among carriers of the disease in the country. Researchers at the National University of Singapore said that the discovery has provided an answer to the puzzling cases in which carriers did not show signs of virus activity, yet suffered liver damage. A professor of the university's Department of Medicine said at present six out of every 100 Singaporeans are Hepatitis B virus carriers. Of these, about 5 percent are believed to have the mutant strain. (Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jul 93)

THAILAND

Ministry Pledges Total Support for AIDS Prevention Projects

During the third national conference on AIDS held at a hotel in Bangkok, the Health Ministry pledged total support for all AIDS prevention projects. Quoting the government's policy statement, a public health official said that all governmental and non-governmental organizations should jointly campaign and educate people in an effort to change behaviour, especially among high risk groups. He also reaffirmed the commitment of the government to provide medical care to AIDS patients, to train sufficient medical officials, and to provide counselling to AIDS patients so they can live normally in society. He said the National AIDS Protection and Prevention Committee at its first meeting on June 3, which was chaired by the prime minister, resolved that all government agencies shall strictly follow the government's policy which stresses intersectoral cooperation and continuity. (Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jul 93)

Study Shows Women Most at Risk of HIV Infection

The latest statistics from the AIDS Division of the Ministry of Public Health indicate that the number of women infected with HIV has risen dramatically in recent years and is nearly equal to the number of infected men. While the majority of infected women are or have been involved in the sex industry, an increasing number are ordinary women who have been infected by husbands or boyfriends. Research is continuing on devices to empower women, but for the time being nothing has proven effective. Because of this, more and more pregnant women are HIV carriers and the Institute for Population and Social Research of Mahidon University

projects that by the year 2000 there will be 400,000 AIDS orphans, 80,000 of whom will be infected with HIV. (Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Jul 93)

VIETNAM

Ben Tre Province Takes Measures Against Malaria

In the past five months there were 3,000 cases of malaria diagnosed in Ben Tre, 400 cases more than in the same period last year. However, the number of fatal cases decreased by two-thirds. The Ben Tre Preventive Medical Center recently soaked 8,400 mosquito nets with insecticides, together with other preventive measures to control malaria in the province. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 30 Jun 93)

Hemorrhagic Fever Hospitalizes 128 in Lam Dong Province

An outbreak of hemorrhagic fever in the towns of Blao, Dong Lai, and the village of Loc Tien in Lam Dong Province hospitalized 128 patients by the end of June. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam 2300 GMT 5 Jul 1993)

INDONESIA

Official Warns of Possible Dengue Epidemic

BK3005144393 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 19 May 93 p 3

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Governor Surjadi Sudirja warned yesterday that dengue hemorrhagic fever is now a danger in all parts of the capital throughout the entire year. Citing the latest figures, he said yesterday the disease is endemic in 92 percent of the city's 260 subdistricts. Dengue cases were reported in almost every subdistrict in 1992.

Surjadi warned that the culmination of the five-year cycle of dengue fever outbreaks falls this year. The fever is spread by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito. The highest incidence of dengue fever was in 1988, with 10,647 cases reported to the Municipal Health Office.

"However, with a continuous series of preventive actions we have been relatively able to control the disease this year," the governor said when launching a campaign against dengue fever in West Jakarta.

So far this year 794 cases have been reported in East, West, South and North Jakarta. East Jakarta has the highest incidence for this year with 304 cases, the public relations officer of the Municipal Health Office, Mari-ani, was quoted by the evening daily newspaper, SUARA PEMBARUAN.

Governor Surjadi said the rate of incidence of the disease in Jakarta was higher than the national average.

"Last year there were 42 cases among every 100,000 residents here," he said. The national rate last year was 12 cases per 100,000 persons.

In West Jakarta alone, 14 out of 1,092 people, who lived in 48 out of 52 subdistricts, died of the fever last year.

So far this year, 134 residents of the mayoralty have contracted the disease. None of the victims has died.

Mayor Sujoko Tirtowijoyo said the highest figure for dengue affected persons was recorded in 1988, when 10 out of 2,053 patients died. The head of the South Jakarta office of the health agency, Ketut Brata Punia, said one of 153 infected persons died of the fever this year. North Jakarta records 203 cases in the past two years, also with no deaths.

The incidence of the disease is expected to peak in the middle of the year, when the rainy season ends and the dry season begins.

The current prevention campaign is aimed at eradicating the potential breeding areas of the Aedes Aegypti, through fumigation and the use of Abate powder, which is sprinkled into standing water to prevent larvae from hatching.

The mosquito which spreads dengue fever lays its eggs in clear, standing water such as in bathtubs, ponds, aquariums, the hollows of bamboo fences, discarded water containers.

THAILAND

Children Who Contract Malaria Is on Rise

93P30062A

[Editorial Report] The Bangkok NAEON NA PHU YING in Thai on 24 May 1993 reported that Deputy Health Minister Anek Thapsuwan and Dr. Sen Kaeoyot recently held a meeting on malaria which remains a serious health problem in Thailand. The rate of the disease has been on the rise every year. It is widely contracted by children when the school year starts in May and throughout the rainy season (May-September).

Anek and Dr. Sen noted that in the past 30 years 76.04 percent of malaria cases involve kindergarten and elementary school children between the ages of five and 14. In 1992, of 42,809 cases reported, there were 138 deaths. The reporting team also predicted that the incidence of malaria will continue to increase. Between 1 January and 20 May, 2,329 cases have already been uncovered, among which 10 deaths were reported.

BULGARIA

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak

Cabinet Adopts Measures To Combat Outbreak

AU2605093093 Sofia BTA in English
1830 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] Sofia, May 25 (BTA)—[passage omitted] Later today, at an extraordinary meeting the cabinet considered a report on the discovery of a foot-and-mouth disease focus of infection submitted by Agriculture Minister Georgi Tanev.

The cabinet decided that all infected animals should be destroyed and that the farm receive compensation for all actual costs of the disposal procedure. As from the moment of this procedure, a one-month ban is imposed on the export of live animals and meat from the area of the focus of infection and within 50 km from it. If the infection is eliminated within this term, the ban will be lifted, said Mr. Todor Aleksandrov, director general of the National Veterinary Service. He assumes that the EC will ban for at least one month the import of live animals, meat, milk and products of animal origin from Bulgaria.

Reported Under Control

AU2605192393 Sofia BTA in English
1757 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpt] Khaskovo, May 26 (BTA)—Over 5 million leva are needed to eliminate the foot-and-mouth disease [FMD] focus of infection in Simeonovgrad (southwestern Bulgaria), say local experts. The money will come from a specialized fund with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture reported the cases of foot-and-mouth disease on May 25. The incidence was localized near Simeonovgrad, close to the Bulgarian-Turkish border. Making a comprehensive inspection, the veterinary authorities identified an FMD focus of infection in a farm with about 100 cows and 150 calves.

The region has been sealed off and all necessary measures have been taken to prevent the spread of the infection.

The infected animals are under veterinary control. The milk is being thrown into pits and treated with chemicals. The manure undergoes thermal treatment in trenches. Personnel cannot yet leave the zone of the farm. The farm management will rent an idle creamery to process 8 tonnes of milk from neighboring villages.

An expert commission will today decide in what way to destroy the infected animals, in keeping with international requirements. The losses Bulgaria will sustain as a result of sanctions remain to be calculated, experts say.

The animals are kept in stalls. Pasture will be allowed 21 days after vaccination in specially marked pasture-grounds. No animals will be allowed to graze near roads or railways. All TIR [International Road Transport] trucks are passing through the region in transit. The parking lots are closed and being cleaned up. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Takes More Measures Against Outbreak

AU2705195993 Sofia BTA in English
1501 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Sofia, May 27 (BTA)—Today the Council of Ministers decided to destroy 2,330 head of cattle, sheep and goats valued at about eight million leva. It was decided to buy disinfectants, vaccines and other necessary preparations, by which the expenses incurred for liquidating the foot-and-mouth disease [FMD] centre in Simeonovgrad (southeastern Bulgaria) would total some 10 million leva or about 400,000 U.S. dollars at current exchange rates.

The government's decision obliges the mayors and the municipal administrations to assist in the localization and liquidation of the centre of FMD infection. The Standing Governmental Commission for the Management of Natural Disasters and Major Industrial Accidents and the Ministry of Finance will provide the necessary funds. The cabinet appointed an Anti-Epidemic Commission with the Council of Ministers, chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, which would organize and coordinate all prophylactic measures.

Referring to an expert at the regional civil defence, the BTA correspondent reported from Khaskovo (southern Bulgaria) that arrangements were being made for the destruction of infected cows in Simeonovgrad. The vaccination of cloven-hoofed animals was completed.

Reacting to the FMD infection alarm, the veterinary service in Dobrich (northeastern Bulgaria) established a line open round the clock and began examining cloven-hoofed animals, although the area was not hit by the infection.

Veterinary Director Says Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eliminated

AU0206063493 Sofia BTA in English
1531 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Sofia, June 1 (BTA)—The focus of foot-and-mouth disease [FMD] was eliminated today, Dr. Todor Aleksandrov, director general of the National Veterinary Service, told a briefing at the Ministry of Agriculture today. He spoke about the measures taken to localize and eliminate the disease.

Dr. Aleksandrov recalled that the farm near Simeonovgrad (southeastern Bulgaria), identified as the focus of foot-and-mouth disease, was destroyed on May 27. The Simeonovgrad area was examined thoroughly. All cloven-footed animals except pigs, which proved immune

to the subtype of the virus causing the disease, were examined and vaccinated in nine villages. 503 head of cattle and 929 sheep and goats were destroyed. 250 sheep and goats and 45 to 50 head of cattle are to be destroyed today, after which the disease will be eliminated, Dr. Aleksandrov said. Some 20 tonnes of caustic soda will be used in the disinfection of the area.

Blood tests show that no animals in several population centres have or have had the disease, Dr. Aleksandrov said categorically. According to him, all necessary measures have been taken to eliminate the disease. Soldiers and police have guarded and cut off the animals since the disease was diagnosed, he said. The Kapitan Andreevo border crossing is disinfected with 2 percent caustic soda twice a day. All roads leading to the focus of infection are guarded by soldiers and police.

Dr. Aleksandrov firmly denied reports in the press that the epidemic broke out in April. According to him, the focus of the disease was located on time and the danger was eliminated. By contrast, Italy has had 52 foci of foot-and-mouth disease recently and Turkey has continually been finding FMD cases, Dr. Aleksandrov said.

A tripartite commission including representatives of the International Office of Epizootics, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the European Community will arrive in Bulgaria on June 6 to check out the measures taken to control the epidemic. The commission will visit the Kapitan Andreevo border crossing to plan measures to prevent transmission of the disease in future because Bulgaria has a strategic position in the Balkans and can serve as a barrier to the virus's spread in Europe, Dr. Aleksandrov said.

EC Experts Arrive To Inspect Outbreak Site

*AU0806180093 Sofia BTA in English
1522 GMT 8 Jun 93*

[Text] Simeonovgrad, June 7 (BTA)—A commission of the European Community arrived today to check compliance with the directions for the elimination of the centre of food-and-mouth disease infection, diagnosed on May 22 in the area of Simeonovgrad (southeastern Bulgaria), the local BTA correspondent reported. The commission's head Mr. Kevin Taylor and the rest of the experts of the Paris-based International Office of Epizootics met with veterinarians and members of the local authorities. They were supplied with full information on the destruction of the ill animals, on the isolation and feeding of the uninfected ones, on the disinfection of state-owned and private farms, yards and streets. The commission will continue its tour of the area, using expressly designed working cards. According to one hypothesis on which investigators work, the infection might have penetrated the cattle farm from a nearby public catering establishment.

EC Commission Investigates Outbreak

*AU0906114693 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network
in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 9 Jun 93*

[Text] Announcer: This morning Professor Georgi Tanev, minister of agriculture, was briefed on the results of the work of the EC veterinarian specialists' who are in our country for an on the spot investigation of the measures taken by the Bulgarian medical authorities to combat the current hoof and mouth [FMD] epidemic.

We asked Minister Tanev about the details of the report:

Tanev: The foreign specialists, or to put it better, our guests from the European Community, expressed admiration for the professional skills of the Bulgarian veterinarians and praised the speed with which we took steps to eliminate the epidemic. The investigators considered all the measures adopted by the Bulgarian veterinarian experts as absolutely effective and timely. They have no objections at all to our experts' work.

We discussed possible compensation for Bulgaria. Of course, the members of the group are veterinary specialists rather than economists. However I asked them to inform the EC about our intention to request fair compensation for the costs we have incurred and promised that we would submit a very precise bill on our expenditures, providing explanations for every single figure.

Announcer: You just heard a statement by Minister of Agriculture Georgi Tanev.

Lyme's Disease in Southeastern Region

93WE0415Y Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 17 May 93 p 1

[Article by Radka Petrova—Kurdzhali: "Lyme's Disease Has Hit Kurdzhali"]

[Text] A 30-year-old patient diagnosed as suffering from Lyme's disease has been hospitalized in Kurdzhali. The disease was identified serologically, and the woman is undergoing treatment, a medical source reported. It is believed that the bite of a tick or another insect caused the infection. Lyme's disease bears its name from an area in the United States where it was first identified. It is lethal unless diagnosed and treated on time. A lethal case of a woman suffering from Lyme's disease occurred one and a half years ago in the Kurdzhali area, according to eyewitnesses. Currently there is a case of Lyme's disease in the Momchilgrad area but, according to physicians, the situation is not in the nature of an epidemic.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Czechs Ban Animals, Meat Imports from Hungary, Bulgaria

*AU2705194693 Prague CTK in English
1822 GMT 25 May 93*

[Text] Prague, May 25 (CTK)—The Czech State Veterinary Authority (SVS) today banned imports of live pigs,

pork meat, pork offal and products made of them, not thermally processed, from the Hungarian region of Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg and from two neighboring regions, CTK learnt today.

Antonin Kozak, SVS director, said that the two other regions were Borsod-Abaуй-Zemplen and Hajdu-Bihar.

The measure was taken in reaction to the announcement that swine fever has occurred in Hungary in the above-mentioned regions which border on Ukraine and Eastern Slovakia. The disease was found in seven animals from two private farms.

Kozak said that the SVS had also imposed a ban on imports and transit of live animals, thermally or chemically unprocessed foodstuffs made of them, milk, unprocessed hides, bowels and fodder from Bulgaria where foot and mouth disease had reportedly occurred.

Gulf War Veterans Claim Mysterious Illness; Army Denials

AU0607201493 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES
IN Czech on 1 July p 1 and 2

[Editorial report] Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 1 July on pages 1 and 2, under the headline "The War Veterans Are Obviously Suffering From Desert Fever," carries a 600-word "(km)"-signed report claiming that Czech soldiers who served in the Gulf War have serious health problems. The report quotes Peter Zelenicky, the war veterans' spokesman, who maintains that their symptoms "indicate that, with all probability, they are suffering from desert fever," which has also affected British and American Gulf War veterans. According to the report, the Czech soldiers, who served with the Czechoslovak anti-chemical warfare unit, "have lost considerable weight, their hair and teeth have fallen out, and they suffer from chronic tiredness and bleeding gums." Zelenicky's claim casts doubt on a statement made to MLADA FRONTA DNES on 30 June by Colonel Vojtech Kubes of the General Staff. He said that the Czech soldiers who served in the Gulf "are not suffering from the mysterious illness afflicting some British war veterans." Zelenicky told MLADA FRONTA DNES that his own teeth had fallen out while he was in Kuwait and that "American doctors gave us tablets. Our doctors assumed that our teeth were falling out because we were drinking too much sweet coca-cola." The veterans' spokesman claims that several soldiers have already died from desert fever in Britain. According to the report, experts think the illness may be caused by "radiation from the uranium-coated heads of the missiles fired from tanks or by inhaling the waste products produced by the burning Kuwaiti oil wells."

The same paper on 2 July on page 1, under the headline "Desert Fever Has a Chemical Basis," carries a 400-word report by Jaroslav Kmenta in which he follows up on the item carried the previous day. He writes that Czech Gulf War veterans think they were affected by mustard gas and sarin, a nerve gas. He again quotes Peter

Zelenicky who said that in the Gulf their "instruments registered concentrations of these substances in the atmosphere. However, the public was not informed of this, because all information was subject to strict secrecy." According to Kmenta, these gases were released into the atmosphere from an Iraqi chemical munitions dump in Mutvana, which was bombarded by allied forces shortly after the war broke out.

MLADA FRONTA DNES also quotes Colonel General Karel Pezl, the former chief of the General Staff. He confirmed that the "anti-chemical warfare unit had measured the increased concentration of certain chemical substances" in the Persian Gulf. However, he does not know anything about mustard gas or sarin. According to him, the Czechoslovak soldiers went to the Gulf voluntarily. "They must have been aware of the risks they were taking," he said. The paper also reports that Defense Minister Antonin Baudys, speaking at a Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party press briefing on 1 July, denied that "Czechoslovak troops who served in the Persian Gulf have health problems."

Authorities Ban Pork From German Swine Fever Zones

AU2106165293 Prague CTK in English
0714 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Prague June 17 (CTK)—The Czech Veterinary Authority (SVS) fears the European pig fever, which has appeared in Germany, may spread to the Czech Republic, the left-orientated daily RUDE PRAVO writes today.

The paper quotes Dr. M. Dropka from the SVS as saying that the danger of spread is great because the Czech Republic has stopped inoculating livestock against the disease to cope with conditions set for exports by the European Community (EC).

The SVS has banned imports of pigs, pork meat and pork products which are not thermally processed from the German lands hit by the disease, the paper writes.

It says that the German Agriculture Ministry told it by phone on Wednesday [16 June] that the infection in Lower Saxony and Mecklenburg-Pomerania had been under control and there was no danger of its spread.

The ministry said that eleven hotbeds of the disease on a relatively small area had been registered in Lower Saxony. In Mecklenburg-Pomerania the districts of Gustrow and Stralsund are affected by it, the paper writes.

Veterinarians Deny Swine Fever Reports

AU2806141793 Prague CTK in English
1219 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Prague/Klatovy, West Bohemia, June 24 (CTK)—There have so far been no cases of swine fever reported

in the Czech Republic, Dr. Josef Holejsovsky, director of the State Veterinarian Institute in Jihlava, confirmed today.

Czech Ministry of Agriculture Press Spokeswoman Marcela Dvorakova told CTK that a laboratory check-up of organs of a pig suspected of swine fever showed no such infection. The pig was slaughtered in Domorazy in the Klatovy district of West Bohemia, after the local veterinary surgeon discovered symptoms of the disease.

Samples of the animal's tissues were sent for analysis to a specialized laboratory in Jihlava, South Moravia, and the body was liquidated. District veterinary authorities in Klatovy declared extraordinary measures to prevent a possible spreading of the infection.

Swine fever is a viral infection whose symptoms are high temperature, breathing difficulties, and lassitude. It cannot be treated. Infected animals must be incinerated.

POLAND

Unpublicized Swine Epidemic Reported in Vojvodina

*93BA1152A Subotica NAPLO in Hungarian
2 Jun 93 p 7*

[Article by Istvan Ternovacz: "Swine Fever in Vojvodina!"]

[Text] After Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary, rump-Yugoslavia also joined the ranks of countries hit by swine fever. With the observation that sealing the border to pigs and pork products because of the very dangerous infectious disease does not affect us. We have enough problems as it is because of the embargo. At the most, we can be happy that the neighbor's cows (pigs) are also dying [proverb].

In Vojvodina, the first diseased animal was discovered in the small village of Lok close to the estuary of the river Tisza. Unfortunately, we could not learn the exact date, but it is a fact that in May the disease appeared around Ujvidek [Novi Sad], as well. The interesting part of the matter is that among the areas in danger of infection, only in the region of Ujvidek did the competent institutions of veterinary hygiene instruct the veterinary clinics to take the necessary steps. According to the decree, it is forbidden to sell pigs until further notice. Dogs and cats must be kept under lock and key, and in areas especially prone to infection, the free movement of people is also restricted. In the meantime, groups of veterinarians are visiting the villages in danger of infection; they go from house to house, and inoculate and register the animals. Diseased animals are destroyed. The most astonishing fact is that while in the region of Ujvidek a quarantine is in force, in the cooperative of Bezdan, well-known for raising pigs, nothing is known about the disease. Moreover, an unlimited number of piglets could be brought in from Serbia through Ujvidek, if they did not cost two

German marks per kilogram, in live weight, of course. One can only guess what this secrecy is supposed to achieve. However, it is beyond a doubt that until recently, porkers from Vojvodina have found the back door next to the gate under international supervision.

Rabies Alert in Suwalki Voivoda

LD2806165693 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1500 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Relayed by TV Polonia Network]

[Text] Suwalki voivoda has declared a rabies alert in Goldap parish. Hunting, walking in the woods, and leaving farm animals overnight in open pastures are forbidden.

YUGOSLAVIA

Tuberculosis Cases, Prevention in Macedonia

*93WE0394A Skopje VECER in Macedonian
26 Apr 93 p 7*

[Report by Tj. Vasilevska: "Tuberculosis in the Chains of Prevention"]

[Text] *The steady and strict implementation of steps to prevent the spreading of tuberculosis, according to the experts, is the only guarantee for eliminating the threat of an eventual epidemic outbreak; the annual program is still awaiting the government's "visa."*

The program for preventive measures to stop the spreading of tuberculosis among the population this year will cost about 770 million denars. That is, perhaps, the most important reason for which, along with the other preventive programs suggested by the Ministry of Public Health (a total of 11.2 billion denars are needed), this program has not been adopted by the government. The purpose of the program, bearing in mind that this contagious disease will not be eliminated throughout the world and in our country in the next few decades, is to ensure the steady reduction in the number of people affected and those already sick, the results of which will be felt by future generations as well.

We proceed from the fact that there are cases of tuberculosis in this country. The statistical view is that, unless discovered and treated, a single person suffering from tuberculosis could contaminate as many as 2,100 individuals! Therefore, according to Dr. Vasil Jovcev, chief of the epidemiological sector at the Institute of Pulmonary Diseases and Tuberculosis of the Skopje School of Medicine, the strict implementation of programmatic measures is the only guarantee for lifting the threat of an eventual outbreak of an epidemic of primary tuberculosis.

Continued Mobility

According to the data gathered by the institute (statistically processed only up to 1991) last year the number of tuberculosis cases had somewhat declined compared to 1991 (1,602 as compared to 1,613, of which 1,498 suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis as compared to 1,551 in 1991) this should not mean that we could reduce our efforts. On the contrary, the worrisome fact pointed out by Dr. Jovcev concerning the number of newly detected cases (618 last year and 674 in 1991), and the fact that this disease attacks mainly people between the ages of 15 and 34 (last year as many as 662 cases) should be taken as a warning of the continuing mobility of the disease.

According to Dr. Jovcev, on the one hand, the fact that the number of individuals contaminated with the bacillus of tuberculosis remains virtually the same indicates, so far, a weakness in the taking of preventive measures, as well as the possibility that such blocked centers of infection could become active under certain social or immunological conditions. Actually, that is the reason for which eradication (the uprooting of the disease) is proceeding more slowly. The initial criterion of success would be to have one child per 100 people infected with tuberculosis.

Koch, who discovered the bacillus of tuberculosis, proved that a previously infected individual cannot be infected a second time. As Dr. Jovcev explained, successful BCG vaccination is a controlled prime infection that excludes the possibility of catching the disease. Hence the importance of this step, as well as of revaccination, should the tuberculin test indicate that the first vaccine did not take. This includes the actual problem of securing the availability of BCG vaccines and of tuberculin. According to Dr. Jovcev, this problem can be resolved above all with the help of UNICEF (vaccines).

Everyone's Duty

Very important in terms of preventing the spreading of tuberculosis is the early detection of the disease in its asymptomatic phase, which is achieved with pulmonary x-rays. This applies to all individuals over the age of 18 and is performed once every four years. However, here as well there are problems: one of the two available x-ray buses is now entirely amortized, and so is the x-ray apparatus installed in the buses. Because of their frequent breakdowns and the delayed transfer of the necessary funds, the seventh x-ray campaign in the Republic, which was initiated in 1989, has still not been completed.

Finally, Dr. Jovcev discussed the significance of outpatient services that are steadily provided in this area, as well as the guaranteed treatment of the patients, without any legal or administrative barriers. Nor should we ignore "self-treatment:" asking the advice of the physician concerning any "prolonged" coughing (more than 15 days), for example, in cases of influenza, and monitoring during cytostatic or corticotherapy lasting more

than one month, of diabetic patients whose immunological status has been disturbed, and so on. Obviously, this imposes an obligation to many individuals but, above all, to the state.

[Box, p 7]

Immunization

On the basis of the tuberculin index (the number of contaminated individuals) it has been determined that after the liberation of Macedonia there were between 25,000 to 30,000 people infected with tuberculosis. In 1961 mandatory immunization was performed but a number of weaknesses in providing universal coverage occurred. For all practical purposes permanent immunization was started in 1965 (at that point there were 13,000 carriers), when the outpatient anti-tuberculosis network was organized. According to Dr. Jovcev, some weaknesses in immunization remain. They should be eliminated in order to prevent cases of some rather difficult forms of tuberculosis among the newly detected victims (some remain undetected), considered are more difficult to treat and acting as sources of contamination.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: About 300 Cases of Enterocolitis Occur in Sarajevo Suburb

AU2806150993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] According to a statement by the republican Headquarters for Health and Social Security of Bosnia-Herzegovina Citizens, 3 people were killed and 85 wounded over the last 24 hours, based on information from Bihać, Gornji Vakuf, Gradacac, Mostar, Zavidovići, Zepče, and Sarajevo. Of that number, 5 were killed and 26 wounded in Sarajevo alone.

[words indistinct] medicine, sanitary material, [word indistinct] electricity [passage indistinct] in Maglaj, Gorazde, Mostar, Konjic, Tesanj, Travnik, and Jablanica.

The epidemiologic situation in Sarajevo is deteriorating, and so far some (?500) cases of enterocolitis have been registered, about 300 cases in the Novo Sarajevo commune alone.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Typhus, Dysentery Epidemic Imminent in Sarajevo

LD0907172993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Report from Sarajevo by correspondent Ranko Mavrik]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] (Tony Lenn), head of Sarajevo's UNHCR office, declared that 75 tonnes of oil should be delivered to the city today as a result of yesterday's negotiations in Pale. The oil shipment has been blocked at Sarajevo Airport for a week now, and is intended for hospital generators, water pumps, and the bakery. However, it is uncertain whether the

arrival of the oil shipment will prevent the looming disaster. (Phil Casey), UNICEF's chief engineer in charge of Sarajevo's waterworks, told reporters today that only 15 liters of water a second are now flowing into the city and what has been feared the most is becoming a reality—five people have already contracted typhus and 750 dysentery cases have been registered. An epidemic is imminent.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Doctor Urges Medicine for Gorazde Enterocolitis Epidemic

LD1207211293 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 12 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The Gorazde information service has reported through radio ham operators that a new chetnik artillery attack on the free area of Gorazde has been under way since yesterday. [passage omitted: names of villages and suburbs targeted]

Due to a water shortage and a lack of basic hygienic conditions, an epidemic of enterocolitis with different symptoms has spread in Gorazde. Dr. Alija Begovic, the Gorazde hospital manager, has said that between 300 and 500 sick people have been reporting to the hospital daily with the symptoms of this stomach disease. In order to stop the epidemic, medicines must be sent to Gorazde, Dr. Begovic says.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Attacks At Maglaj, Zavidovici, Gorazde Continue

AUI307111193

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 1000 GMT on 13 July carries the following reports on the fighting in the Republic:

Hajrudin Sermic reports that "the attacks of the united Chetnik and Ustasha forces at our defense lines and the civilian population, which has been kept in encirclement for days, lasted until early morning." As he reports, tanks and mortars pounded the defense positions in the region of (?Ljestice) while the antiaircraft machine guns kept all communications routes in the town under fire. Sermic reports that "the civilian quarters of town" were attacked by 155-mm howitzers, mortars, and Maljutka guided missiles. Beside the "enormous material damage incurred," three people received serious injuries, Sermic says.

A dispatch by the Bosna Operative Group of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army reports "continued" attacks at Zavidovici and its surroundings. "Several hundreds of tank, gun, and mortar bombs fell on Dubravice in the course of the night," the report says, adding that a local mosque

was also destroyed on that occasion. As it is reported, the soldiers of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army succeeded in "destroying an enemy tank with the complete crew." "The town and its surroundings were under artillery attack by the Chetnik-Ustasha attackers the entire day," the report goes on, adding that great material damage was incurred. "The morning of 13 July is relatively peaceful," the report concludes, while "the defense lines remain firm."

"The Chetnik artillery offensive against the free territory of Gorazde has not been stopped in the course of yesterday," Mustafa Kurtovic reports, "and since this morning the Serbo-Montenegrin criminals have stepped up their attacks on the defense lines and [word indistinct] suburban villages." Quoting the opinion of the command of the East Bosnia Operative Group of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, Kurtovic expects that "once the Chetniks [word indistinct] their troops, they will try to attack Gorazde again." Kurtovic also reports that the epidemic of enterocolitis in Gorazde is spreading. He also urges the international humanitarian organizations to facilitate the evacuation of "approximately 50" seriously injured children from Gorazde hospital, who cannot be treated because of lack of medication and equipment.

FRY Kosovo: LDK Reports 'Alarming' Epidemiologic Situation

AU2107154793 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT Nr. 144 in English 20 Jul 93

[Unattributed report: "Alarming Epidemiological Situation in Kosova"—issued by the Democratic League of Kosova]

[Text] An article published in today's BUJKU warns on a severe epidemiological situation in Kosova. For the first six months, the article says, 2,940 cases of scarlet fever, including 12 death cases, and 1,873 cases of infectious diarrhea, including 43 death cases, were reported in Kosova. Some 96 other death cases were caused by other contagious diseases.

The epidemiological picture also includes frequent cases of various contagious diseases (11,250 cases). Diseases such as tuberculosis and scabs, which had been eradicated, are now alarmingly returning amongst the population of Kosova.

The cause for the deterioration, the newspaper says, is the lack of medical treatment and of vaccines (Over 200,000 persons did not receive necessary vaccination). The newspaper also says that the destruction of the health care system in Kosova by throwing out all Albanian doctors, and closing down of most local health care centers, contributed to this situation.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Regional Health Report 20-28 May

PA2905150193

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of regional health reports monitored by Panama Bureau from 20 to 28 May. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

COLOMBIA

Police Health Director Colonel Alfredo Salgado Mendez reported that over the past year 25 policemen have caught the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), virus in Caldas, Risaralda, Quindio, and Putumayo Departments. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 May 93 p 8A)

GUATEMALA

At least 10 people have died of cholera and another 968 are infected by it in the western department of Suchitepequez, according to Governor Oscar Eduardo Argueta. A Health Ministry official said that since the bacteria first appeared in June 1991, 327 people have died of the disease and 22,266 people have been infected. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1829 GMT 28 May 93)

HONDURAS

Three alcoholics died of cholera in the capital, health authorities reported on 21 May. The total number of people who have died of cholera since 1991 now stands at 23, 78 percent of whom were alcoholics. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 22 May 93 p 12)

The AIDS virus will infect some 40,000 Hondurans per year starting in 1995, according to official figures released to the media on 23 May. Since 1985, there have been 2,700 recorded cases of AIDS in the country. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 May 93)

MEXICO

The number of people with the AIDS virus in Mexico is 13,519, half of whom have already died, the Health and Public Assistance Secretariat reported on 22 May. The real number of people infected with the virus could be 20,660, because an estimated 50 percent of the cases are not reported. Mexico ranks third in the hemisphere with the greatest number of AIDS cases after the United States and Brazil. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2019 GMT 22 May 93)

A total of 13 people have died of cholera out of the 303 cases reported in several Mexican states in the past seven days, according to reports from the Health and Public Assistance Secretariat. Official figures show that some 8,000 people have caught the cholera bacteria since it first appeared in Mexico two years ago. More than 200 of them have died. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1955 GMT 26 May 93)

VENEZUELA

During the first quarter in 1993, 2,531 new cases of AIDS were reported in Venezuela, the Health and Social Welfare Ministry said in Caracas on 24 May. Seventy percent of the total number of cases were homosexuals. The ministry added that 1,336 of them have already died. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1659 GMT 24 May 93)

Regional Health Report 25 May - 4 June

PA0506155193

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of regional health reports monitored by Panama Bureau from 25 May to 4 June. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

HONDURAS

Two new cholera cases were reported in El Progreso, Yoro Department, during the week of 31 May, bringing the total of infected persons to 18 this year. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Jun 93 p 27)

Two more cholera cases have been reported in San Pedro Sula, making a total of eight persons infected by the virus in this city. (Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 3 June 93 p 9)

The Honduran Public Health Ministry said on 4 June that 12 more cholera cases were reported during the week, bringing the total to 483 infected people. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2312 GMT 4 Jun)

PANAMA

The Metropolitan Health Region has reported that the Aedes Aegypti mosquito infestation index has continued to increase during the week of 16 to 22 May due to the start of the rainy season. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 29 May 93 p 23)

Regional Health Report 5-18 June

PA1906213093

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of regional health reports monitored by Panama Bureau from 5 to 18 June. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

COLOMBIA

Twelve children have died and 100 have been reported sick as a result of a leishmaniasis and tuberculosis epidemic among the Indian groups living in San Andres de Sotavento, Cordoba municipality. The epidemic broke out due the suspension of preventive measures in the area. (Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Jun 93)

COSTA RICA

Costa Rican health authorities report another cholera case in the banana farm of Puerto Viejo de Sarapiqui, located on the Atlantic Coast. Authorities have reported

19 cases since the disease was first detected in January 1992. Costa Rica is the only country in the area where no cholera deaths have occurred. (Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2220 GMT 8 Jun 93)

ECUADOR

Reports from the epidemiology department of Chimborazo Province's regional health directorate reveals the proliferation of dengue and cholera. The information reveals that 75 dengue cases and 350 cholera cases have been reported; adding 15 cholera patients have died this year. (Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jun 93)

EL SALVADOR

Public Health and Social Services Minister Lisandro Vasquez Sosa stated El Salvador has the lowest rate of cholera-related deaths in Central America despite deficiencies in the public health system infrastructure. The official said 30 persons have died and 9,000 have acquired the disease since the first case was reported in the country. (San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jun 93)

GUATEMALA

A state of emergency was declared at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Guatemala City after 106 cholera cases—most of them children—were registered within 24 hours. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2340 GMT 9 Jun 93)

Official sources reported on 10 June at least 53 cholera patients have died and 3,087 new cases have been reported this year. The sources added that 85.6 percent of the cases have been reported in Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Zacapa, Guatemala, and Quiche Departments. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0003 GMT 10 Jun 93)

A cholera outbreak has been reported in Guatemala's southern area, where nine persons have died and more than 1,000 cases have been registered. Official figures indicate 22,612 cases have been reported and 328 deaths have occurred since July 1991. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1738 GMT 12 Jun 93)

Official sources reported on 14 June 500 new cholera cases were reported this weekend in the country. The outbreak has been traced to a contaminated potable water tank located in the outskirts of the capital. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1944 GMT 14 Jun 93)

HONDURAS

Health official Felipe Aguilera reported on 4 June 123 dengue cases in the northern zone of the country. The official also reported a malaria outbreak in El Progreso and a chicken pox epidemic in San Pedro Sula. Aguilera also said 190 AIDS cases have been reported in 1993; adding 127 of them were registered in San Pedro Sula. (San Pedro Sula LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 5 Jun 93)

Honduran health officials reported the death of nine cholera patients over the weekend. Public Health Minister Ramon Pereira said 16 cholera cases were registered during the weekend; adding that half of these patients died. (Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0152 GMT 9 Jun 93)

The Public Health Ministry on 10 June issued a report announcing the presence of a new and more aggressive cholera strain, identified as "Enabe," which is presumably responsible for the death of nine patients. Specialized laboratory personnel are currently analyzing the bacteria, which is considered quite lethal. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1752 GMT 10 Jun 93)

Health authorities have confirmed two new typhoid fever cases in Juticalpa, Olancho Department. Twenty-two cases have been reported in the area this year. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Jun 93) Authorities are on alert following the report of 12 new cholera cases. Five of the cases were detected in the capital, five in the south, and two in the western part of the country. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2043 GMT 14 Jun 93)

National Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, AIDS, Program figures indicate 30 new cases have been registered in the country. To date 2,724 cases have been registered. Most of the cases have been reported in Cortes, Francisco Morazan, Atlantida, and Yoro Departments. (San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Jun 93 p 7)

On 15 June Public Health Ministry sources reported 80 cases of leprosy have been reported in the country in recent years. The sources added that most of the cases were detected in the south and the others in Cortes and Santa Barbara Departments. (Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 16 Jun 93 p 3)

Public Health Ministry reports indicate 532 cholera cases have been reported and 33 cholera patients have died since the first case was reported in 1991. The information reveals most of the cases have been reported in Francisco Morazan, Valle, Choluteca, and Cortes Departments. (Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 18 Jun 93 p 3)

Public Health Minister Ramon Pereira has confirmed three new cholera cases in Yuscaran, El Paraiso Department. (Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 18 Jun 93 p 21)

MEXICO

A Health Secretariat spokesman reported on 5 June that 255 new cholera cases have been detected and seven cholera patients have died this week. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2024 GMT 5 Jun 93)

Health authorities report 80 new cholera cases have been detected in Guanajuato State this year. This represents 2 percent of the nation's total figures. (Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Jun 93)

On 11 June the Health Secretariat reports 13,259 AIDS cases have been registered in the past 10 years, adding that 6,769 of those patients have already died, 5,390 are alive, and no information exists on the remaining 1,100. Most of the cases have been reported in Morelos and Jalisco States, and in the federal district. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1927 GMT 11 Jun 93)

On 15 June health officials began to test two cholera vaccines on 4,200 people in Jala and Jomulgo, Nayarit State. The plan is to determine which of the two vaccines is more effective against cholera. Reports reveal that 2,577 cases have been reported and 54 patients have died between May and 11 June. Most of the cases have been reported in Puebla and Mexico States, and in the federal district. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 0147 GMT 16 Jun 93)

NICARAGUA

Municipal authorities have reported over 1,000 cases of dengue and hemorrhagic dengue in the country. The authorities are trying to solve the problem by fumigating each house. (Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Jun 93)

The cholera epidemic that has spread in the country since 1991 has resulted in 4,000 cases and 87 deaths, it was confirmed by the Health Ministry on 15 June. Officials have also reported four new cholera cases this week. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1713 GMT 15 Jun 93)

PANAMA

Health Ministry reports indicate 509 AIDS cases and 310 AIDS-related deaths have been registered since the first case was detected in 1984. Colon Province authorities report one AIDS-related death, nine new AIDS cases, four tuberculosis cases, and three German measles cases between 9 and 15 May. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 7 Jun 93 p 14a)

Health reports indicate 160 tuberculosis cases have been reported in 1993, mostly in Bocas del Toro, San Blas, and Veraguas Provinces. Authorities have explained only 40 percent of the cases are detected by health officials. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Jun 93 p 16)

Authorities have reported five new malaria cases between 16 and 22 May. A report indicates 22 cases have been reported this year. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 12 Jun 93 p 3A)

Approximately 40 AIDS-related deaths and 30 AIDS patients have been reported to date in western Panama Province. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jun 93 p 10A)

Regional Health Report 19-25 June PA2606030893

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of regional health reports monitored by Panama Bureau from 19 to 25 June. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

EL SALVADOR

A spokesman for the Health Ministry reported on 24 June that two persons have died and 40 are infected by a new outbreak of cholera in Yayantique, La Union Department, eastern El Salvador. The Health Ministry source added that cholera has killed 12 Salvadorans and infected 3,650 persons so far in 1993. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2141 GMT 24 Jun 93)

GUATEMALA

Dr. Axel Oliva, chief of the Cholera Treatment Unit of the Guatemala City General Hospital, announced on 21 June that a new outbreak of cholera has been controlled. Dr. Oliva pointed out that so far in June, over 275 patients have been treated. (Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 22 Jun p 5)

HONDURAS

Local medical authorities confirmed on 22 June that four Hondurans have died of cholera in Morolica, Choluteca Department, southern Honduras, which brings up to 546 the number of cases and to 38 the number of deaths caused since the disease first appeared in October 1991. Health Minister Ramon Pereira declared a state of national alert following the outbreak of the disease on the week of 6 June when 10 persons died. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1944 GMT 22 Jun 93)

Health authorities in San Pedro Sula have reported there are 34 confirmed cases of cholera in the northwestern region of the country, an area with poor water facilities. (San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Jun 93 p 14)

MEXICO

The Health Secretariat has reported that a total of 368 cases of cholera were registered in Mexico during the week of 12 to 18 June, the highest so far in 1993. Health Secretariat sources added that 2,945 cases were recorded from January to June 1993, while 1,358 cases were reported during the same months in 1992. Most of the cases come from Michoacan, Tamaulipas, Puebla, Veracruz, Morelos, and Tlaxcala, the health officials reported, adding that 9,000 persons—of which 300 died—contracted cholera in the last two years. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2010 GMT 20 Jun 93)

NICARAGUA

The director of the Ocotal Public Health Center has reported four cases of cholera in Santa Maria, Nueva Segovia Department, where the community consumes the contaminated waters of the Choluteca River that

stems from Honduras. The director added two more cases were reported in Ocotal. (Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Jun 93)

Public Health authorities have confirmed 20 new cases of cholera in 24 hours in Boaco Department. (Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Jun 93)

The Health Ministry reported on 22 June that at least 37 cases of cholera were registered on 20 and 21 June, which brings up to 987 the total number of cases, of which 44 have died, in the first six months of 1993. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0208 GMT 23 Jun 93)

PERU

It has been reported from Iquitos that a strange disease has attacked 87 persons living along the banks of the Pastaza River, in the Amazon area, Loreto. Up to 18 June, eight persons had died of this disease, which is similar to measles, and which is being investigated by scientists. (Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Jun 93)

The Health Ministry reported on 23 June a cholera outbreak that has killed 383 persons, out of 4,270 positive cases, in the first five months of 1993. The source added most of the cases are reported in Lima, Arequipa, Moquegua, Tacna, Junin, and Lambayeque. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1620 GMT 23 Jun 93)

Regional Health Report 26 June - 2 July

PA0307124293

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of regional health reports monitored by Panama Bureau from 26 June to 2 July. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

HONDURAS

Health authorities have reported that as of May 1993, 2,794 persons have developed AIDS and 60,000 other persons are infected and will start showing symptoms within the next nine years. (San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Jun 93 p 9)

Health authorities reported on 29 June that 15 new cases of cholera have been registered in different communities. Since the first case was reported in October 1991, 583 cases have been registered. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jun 93 p 30)

Radio America reported on 1 July that 12 persons have died of cholera in Choluteca Department and that 15 others are suffering from the disease. According to Radio America, all those cases have been registered in the town of Duyure, which is currently out of reach as heavy rains have damaged roads in that part of the country. The station added that people are digging mass graves to bury the dead and that health authorities have neither confirmed nor denied the reports. Official sources have reported that the cholera epidemic has caused 37 deaths

in Honduras since it started in October 1991. (Paris AFP in Spanish 2244 GMT 2 Jul 93)

NICARAGUA

A Health Ministry spokesman reported on 28 June that 225 persons, mostly minors, have died over the last five months due to acute diarrhea related illnesses. The spokesman added that 109,000 cases of diarrhea have been registered in 1993. Almost 1,000 cases of dengue fever have been registered so far this year.

Sources also reported that cholera, which appeared in November 1991, has caused 87 deaths; 4,000 persons have been infected. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1505 GMT 28 Jun 93)

A health official in Rivas Department reported on 1 July that respiratory ailments have killed eight children under one year of age, while almost 12,500 persons were affected between the months of January and May. The official added that 724 persons suffered diarrhea in Rivas Department during those months.

Leon Department health Authorities reported that 655 cases of dengue fever have been registered; 460 are classic cases, whereas 185 are of the bleeding type. The sources added that on 30 June 15 persons infected with bleeding dengue fever were sent to hospitals. (Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Jul 93)

PANAMA

A report from the Epidemiology Division of the Health Ministry states that 68 AIDS cases have been registered thus far in 1993. The report also states that the number of measles cases remain at 31 confirmed cases, meningitis remains at 17 cases, and cholera remains at 42 cases registered. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Jun 93 p 10A)

PERU

The mayor of Canchaque has reported that between 60 and 70 percent of the rural population of the district, an estimated 8,000 persons, are suffering tuberculosis. (Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Jun 93)

VENEZUELA

Cholera appeared in Venezuela in December 1991. Since that date, 3,262 cases have been registered and 77 persons have died in 19 of the 21 states in the country. In 1993, 382 cases have been registered and nine persons have died of that illness. Health authorities also reported that as of 31 March 1993, 2,531 AIDS cases have been registered, with 1,336 deaths. (Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 22 Jun 93 p C1)

Health authorities have reported that 1,800 cases of dengue fever have been registered in the Lara, Barinas, Guarico, and Tachira states since the rainy season began.

The source added that approximately 25 percent of the cases are of the bleeding type. (Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 2 Jul 93)

Regional Health Report 2-9 July

PA1007012393

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of regional health reports monitored by Panama Bureau from 2 to 9 July. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

COLOMBIA

Sanitation authorities have announced that the number of people infected with the AIDS virus in Colombia has increased to 15,000, while over 100,000 people are HIV positive. Health Minister Juan Luis Londono has announced an ambitious program to combat the disease, which includes treatment for jail inmates and the preservation of employment rights for infected individuals. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2029 GMT 7 Jul 93)

COSTA RICA

The Health authorities have announced that so far this year 1,500 cases of malaria have been reported in Costa Rica, with the highest percentage of cases in the Atlantic region. Jose Najera, who represents the Nordic countries that are financing preventive health programs in the region, said the number of cases nationwide is normal, but the high percentage of cases in the Atlantic region is not. (San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Jul 93)

ECUADOR

The Health Ministry has announced that up until the month of June, a total of 553 Ecuadorans were infected with the AIDS virus. Of this total, 275 are HIV positive and have not yet developed the disease. According to the Health Ministry report, people between the ages of 20 and 44 are the most affected. (Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Jul 93)

GUATEMALA

Guatemalan health official Soel Leonardo reported that 379 Guatemalans have died from cholera and a total of 28,084 are infected. In 1991 there were 3,664 cases and in 1992 15,861 cases. The number of cases reported in 1993 up to now amount to 8,559. In 1991 there were 50 deaths due to cholera, 227 in 1992, and 102 up to this date in 1993. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1839 GMT 9 Jul 93)

HONDURAS

Epidemiologist Miguel Umana has announced that at the end of June 1,609 cases of AIDS had been reported in Sanitary Region 3, which includes Cortes, Santa Barbara, and Yoro. Umana said that to date the disease has

claimed 414 lives and there are 282 infected individuals whose whereabouts are unknown. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Jul 93 p 12)

The Health Ministry has announced the death of five people from cholera in Liure, El Paraiso Department. In the same community there are 22 people infected with the disease and nine others in various parts of the country. There are a total of 630 cases nationwide. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2120 GMT 5 Jul 93)

Health authorities have confirmed that Honduras is the country with the most cases of measles, dengue, and German measles due to a lack of good control and prevention programs. El Salvador is the Central American country with the lowest number of cases of these diseases. No figures were available for Costa Rica, which did not take part in the meeting of virologists held in Tegucigalpa. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Jul 93 p 13)

The Health Ministry reports 48 new cholera cases, making a total of 640 cases. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2101 GMT 8 Jul 93)

Public Health Ministry officials have reported 143 new AIDS cases during June, the total of which now stands at 2,867. (San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Jul 93)

Regional Health Report 10-16 July

PA1707153393

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of regional health reports monitored by Panama Bureau from 10 to 16 July. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

COLOMBIA

The Health Ministry has announced a drastic increase of AIDS virus cases during the current year. The report indicates that there were 3,281 AIDS virus cases and 2,837 HIV positive cases in 1992. In addition, currently the disease has a larger incidence in the female population. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 7 Jul 93 p 15a)

COSTA RICA

Official sources have reported two new cholera cases—two Nicaraguan citizens—at a Limon neighborhood in the Costa Rican Atlantic coast. (Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2017 GMT 14 Jul 93)

EL SALVADOR

The health minister gave an official report to the National Congress on 14 July. He highlighted the positive actions of his Ministry, but noted that 178 Salvadorans have died of the AIDS virus since it first appeared in the country. (San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jul 93)

GUATEMALA

Health authorities have reported that at least 16 people have died of and 560 people have been infected with cholera in the country during the first 10 days of July. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1858 GMT 11 Jul 93)

HONDURAS

On 16 July, the Honduran Public Health Ministry reported that the total number of cholera cases in the country had increased to 709 as 62 new cases had been reported in country in the past days. So far, the disease has caused 44 deaths. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0022 GMT 17 Jul 93)

NICARAGUA

According to the Nicaraguan Health Ministry, in the past days, there has been an outbreak of cholera in the rural areas of northern and central Nicaragua, as 65 new cases have been reported. Thus, there have been a total of 1,334 cholera cases reported during the current year. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0159 GMT 15 Jul 93)

PANAMA

A Health Ministry report indicates that 53 people, out of the 58 cases reported, died of the AIDS disease in 1992. During the first six months of 1993, however, there has been a considerable increase of the AIDS virus as 110 cases have been reported and 38 people have succumbed to the disease. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 10 Jul 93 p 3a)

A Health Ministry report indicates that there have been 150 cases of malaria in the country so far in 1993, which is 241 cases less than the cases registered during the same period in 1992. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Jul 93 p 40)

Health Ministry officials have warned the citizens that the number of aedes aegypti mosquitoes has increased considerably in Panama City during the past week. The officials have requested citizen support to reduce the number of mosquitoes to prevent an epidemic. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jul 93)

Southern Cone Health Report 14-20 May

PY2005200193

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 14 to 20 May.

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD reports in English on 18 May, page 11 in the "Argentina in Brief" column, that Health and Social Action Minister Alberto Mazza on 17 May inaugurated the national campaign against measles, in which 9 million children will be vaccinated. Mazza said that children under the age of 15 will receive free vaccinations as part of the government effort to eradicate the illness within five years. Mazza said that all children should be vaccinated, "even those who were already immunized or who have had the illness."

Buenos Aires TELAM reports in Spanish at 2120 GMT on 19 May, that the Health and Social Action Ministry reported today one new case of cholera in Salta Province in the past 24 hours. The number of cholera cases so far this year stands at 1,516.

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish reports on 19 May, page 46, that sanitary chief Daniel Puricelli of San Justo in Cordoba Province has reported that 56 cases of hepatitis "A" were registered in Freyre—a town of 2,000 inhabitants—since March. The report adds that 12 other cases were reported in the town of Malvinas Argentinas during March and a few isolated cases in the province's capital and interior.

BRAZIL

Sao Paulo ISTOE reports in Portuguese on 5 May, page 15, that an official report states that on 27 April Sao Paulo registered the first cholera death while the first cases have been registered in the Rosinha shantytown in Rio de Janeiro. Meanwhile, a tuberculosis outbreak is killing 14 cases per day nationwide.

Buenos Aires TELAM-SNI reports in Spanish at 2254 GMT on 18 May that a document will be presented at the health ministers conference in Brasilia between 24 and 27 June. The document states that one fifth of all AIDS cases in the world are concentrated in 21 Latin American countries. Second on the list of most afflicted countries in Europe is Spain while the United States and Brazil are first and second—with 37,000 cases—in the American continent. In Latin America the number of women infected with the disease has increased and the Panamerican Health Organization reported that 10,000 children were born with the disease in the region. The report adds that drug trafficking is a major factor in the increase in AIDS cases due to the use of infected syringes.

PERU

Lima LA REPUBLICA reports in Spanish on 10 May, page 11, that Luis Teran Salazar, the director of Cajamarca Hospital No. 1, has announced that in Sebadin and Hualqui, Jesus District, about 100 individuals have become infected with cholera in the past few hours, adding that 17 died as the result of the violent outbreak.

Southern Cone Health Report 21-27 May

PY2805010993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 21 to 27 May.

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires TELAM reports in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 26 May that a total of 43 children infected with AIDS are currently being treated in a Mar del Plata hospital, of which 26 are 15 months old. Some 250 children infected with the disease have been admitted in this hospital in the past seven years.

BOLIVIA

La Paz PRESENCIA reports in Spanish on 13 May, page 6, that the La Paz District Forestal Chamber has reported that approximately 1,800 people are infected with leprosy nationwide. Of that number, six cases have been recently detected in the Ixiamas region.

The same newspaper reports on 12 May, Section 2, page 4, that according to representatives of the Aroma Province, La Paz Department, the hoof and mouth disease outbreak is worsening in this region, where in 10 days more than 50 animals have died.

La Paz Radio Fides Network reports in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 21 May that, according to a report supplied by Eloy and Guillermo Gareca, two people suddenly contracted the cholera disease and were transported from the cattle region of Caicandia, 110 km northwest of Villamontes, to Machareti. They have since recovered. Local people are still concerned because other cases have been reported in neighboring regions.

La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 26 May reports a cholera outbreak in the Las Pozas and Cuatro Vientos labor camps, near the town of Mineros in northern Santa Cruz Department. Six workers came down with this disease, but were treated and have recovered satisfactorily.

BRAZIL

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO reports in Portuguese on 19 May, Section 3, page 1, that according to an epidemiological bulletin, 140 new AIDS cases were registered in Santos, Sao Paulo State, in the first quarter of 1993; the number of AIDS carriers in this city totals 2,614.

CHILE

Santiago EL MERCURIO reports in Spanish on 12 May, page C9, that more than 5,000 people were infected with tuberculosis in Chile in 1992, of which 400 died. The disease is currently killing two people daily. The highest number of fatal cases have been registered in the Arica, Valparaiso, San Antonio, Osorno, Llanquihue, Chiloe, and Palena regions.

Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network reports in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 20 May that, according to official records, 694 AIDS cases, including 33 minors and seven deaths, have been reported in Chile.

PARAGUAY

Asuncion ABC COLOR reports in Spanish on 22 May, page 14, that according to National Anti-AIDS Program Director Nicolas Aguayo, nine new carriers of the HIV virus, which causes AIDS, were registered in April, bringing the total number to 220. The total number of AIDS cases registered in the country through March amounts to 55; 38 cases were fatal.

Southern Cone Health Report 28 May - 3 June

PY0306235993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 28 May to 3 June.

BRAZIL

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO reports in Portuguese on 29 May, page 17, according to a Health Ministry bulletin, AIDS is killing six people per day in Brazil. A total of 2,204 people died of the disease in 1992. The bulletin also lists the 30 Brazilian cities with the highest number of AIDS cases, including Sao Paulo, which has registered 13,223 cases; Rio de Janeiro, 4,158; Santos, 1,118; Porto Alegre, 1,041; Salvador, 679; Belo Horizonte, 658; and Recife, 517.

CHILE

Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish at 1700 GMT on 3 June reports that Health Under Secretary Patricio Silva noted that the number of people with AIDS increases 30-35 percent per year.

PERU

Lima EL COMERCIO reports in Spanish on 24 May, page A14, the malaria outbreak is worsening in Piura Department. A total of 485 people are infected with the disease in the Buenos Aires, Bigote and Lalaquiz districts of Morropon Province, and the in Huarmaca, Salitral, and Canchaque Districts of Huancabamba Province.

Southern Cone Health Report 4-10 June

PY1106030793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 4 to 10 June.

BOLIVIA

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish on 29 May reports on page 1 of Section 2 that according to Public Health Ministry Under Secretary Guillermo Cuentas Yanes, the city of Oruro registers the highest infant mortality rate in the country. Poverty and poor sanitary conditions are killing 102 out of 1,000 infants less than a year old in the city, and 118 out of 1,000 in Potosi Department, the highest rate among Bolivian Departments.

La Paz HOY in Spanish on 30 May reports on page 3 that according to medical sources a baby infected with AIDS died 48 hours after birth in Santa Cruz de la Sierra last weekend. A similar case occurred one year ago. The sources also stated that 10 new AIDS cases were registered in the past four months in Santa Cruz de la Sierra Department, bringing this department's total to 56, which represents 50 percent of the cases detected in the country.

La Paz EL MUNDO in Spanish on 4 June reports on page 4 of Section 2 that Health Ministry statistics reveal that a total of 99 AIDS cases were registered nationwide up to April 1993, of which 47 were fatal.

CHILE

Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 8 June reports 22 fatalities caused by meningitis in the Second Region after a one-year-old baby girl died of this disease in Antofagasta. So far this year, 19 people have died of meningitis in Antofagasta District alone. The Health Service has ruled out the existence of a meningitis epidemic, claiming these incidents are just isolated cases.

PERU

Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 28 May reports on page 15, that 20 peasants died of cholera in the past few days in Pomabamba Province. Another 10 of 30 people infected with the disease are in serious condition because of a lack of medicines and food following flooding which has isolated the area.

Southern Cone Health Report 11-17 June

PY1806022693

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 11 to 17 June.

BOLIVIA

La Paz Radio Fides reports in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 16 June that Pando Department health authorities have said the situation in the department is "serious" following the confirmation of two malaria cases in the capital Cobija. The disease is rampant in the interior of the department where nearly 200 cases have been reported in the past three months. Physicians also reported an outbreak of Leishmaniasis in the city and warned about the threat of an epidemic because both diseases are transmitted by mosquitoes.

PARAGUAY

Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 11 June reports on page 48 cites the National Anti-AIDS Program

director as saying that 55 AIDS cases, 38 of them fatal, and 220 AIDS carriers have been registered in Paraguay to 30 April 1993.

Southern Cone Health Report 2-8 July

PY0807232493

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 2 to 8 July.

BRAZIL

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 1 July on page 3 of section 3 reports that the Paraiba Health Secretariat confirmed on 30 June that 92 new cholera cases have been registered in this state, bringing the total number to 2,257 so far this year, of which 17 have been fatal.

Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese at 2200 GMT on 6 July reports that 200 cholera cases have been confirmed in Picos district, Piaui State, where the Guaiba River has been found to be contaminated. The cholera epidemic was detected last week.

CHILE

Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1659 GMT on 8 July reports that the Chilean Public Health Institute confirmed today that a total of 29 cholera cases have been registered in the country so far this year.

PARAGUAY

Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish on 6 July on page 8 reports that National Malaria Eradication Service officials detected 90 new leishmaniasis cases between January and June in various parts of the country. This represents a drop of more than 80 percent compared with the same period last year, when 681 cases were registered.

PERU

Lima EXPRESO in Spanish on 23 June on page 11 reports that a total of 4,270 cholera cases have been registered nationwide during the year's first five months, of which 383 died. Only last week, 1,700 cases were reported nationwide, of which 19 had been fatal. Lima has registered the highest number of cases so far this year.

URUGUAY

Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0141 GMT on 6 July reports that AIDS has killed a total of 197 people since 1983, when the first case was detected in Uruguay. A total of 1,189 AIDS carriers and 384 AIDS cases were registered through last week.

Southern Cone Health Report 9-15 July
PY1607225793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 9 to 15 July.

CHILE

Chilean television channels will broadcast new spots containing more detailed information on ways to prevent AIDS as part of the national campaign on AIDS control. Health Under Secretary Patricio Silva explained that the new spots were prepared following a scientific evaluation of the first phases of the massive communication campaign which revealed the need to provide more comprehensive information on AIDS. He said the evaluation showed that 76.6 percent of those polled termed this campaign very positive. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Jun 93 p C7)

Health Ministry statistics show the number of people infected with tuberculosis in Chile is slowly dropping. A total of 5,490 cases were registered in 1991 against the 5,047 cases in 1992; an annual average drop of 5 percent. Some 475 patients died in 1991 and 400 in 1992. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Jun 93 p C11)

PERU

A total of 850 malaria cases were detected from March to June in the villages of Palo Blanco, Pajonal, Serran, and Bigote in Morropón Province according to the director of the Piura health sub-region. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 2 Jul 93 p A1)

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Islanders Fear 'Epidemic,' Oppose Cuban Refugee Camp

*FL2905005693 Bridgetown CANA in English
1917 GMT 28 May 93*

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, May 28, CANA—An estimated 150 residents of the island of Cayman Brac, one of three islands that make up this Western Caribbean British Territory, held a public protest against any planned encampment on the island for Cuban refugees.

The demonstrators met peacefully with senior government officials who were on the island to inspect a possible location for a "tent city" to house all Cuban refugees who arrive in the country.

The protesters were worried about a possible health hazard from Cubans, particularly in view of the recent unidentified epidemic in Cuba. There were also concerns about medical attention, sanitation and other infrastructure services on an island with just a 12-bed hospital and one doctor.

The idea of a "tent city" was approved in March when the Cayman Islands had some 175 Cuban refugees in the

country and had limited resources, housing and other services to handle such a large number of asylum seekers.

The Cayman Islands has a population of just 27,000 people while Cayman Brac Island has a permanent population of only around 900.

Kearney Gomez, the principal secretary in the Agriculture and Works Ministry, assured the protestors that the government was considering other sites as well.

"The concerns raised ... will be incorporated into the report to the governor. Nothing has been decided upon," he told them.

Just two weeks ago, 250 residents of the Northward community on Grand Cayman Island, the largest of the three islands in the country, delivered a petition to the government protesting against a decision to place a tent city in their area.

The government shelved that location and began examining alternatives, including the Cayman Brac site.

COLOMBIA

Measles Vaccination Campaign Begins

*93WE0411A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR
in Spanish 6 May 93 p 8A*

[Excerpts] The first national campaign against measles will begin next Monday, 10 May, and will continue until Saturday, 5 July, including a complementing preventive campaign against polio, tuberculosis, diphtheria and neonatal tetanus.

The campaign is being organized by the Health Ministry and the office of First Lady Dona Ana Milena Munoz de Gaviria, and calls attention to the high number of cases of the disease that were observed in 1992, as well as the high mortality rate: close to 500 deaths that same year.

The campaign's stated goal is the immunization of 12 million minors, in order to reduce circulation of the measles virus as much as possible and lower the number of deaths caused by this disease, which is currently 39 per 1,000 in children under one year, and 1.6 per 1,000 in children from one to seven.

Among the group of diseases preventable by immunization, measles occupies first place in the number of deaths and infections because of its highly contagious nature. To fulfill the vaccination strategy planned for the months of May and June, a group of vaccination workers will visit private schools, day-care centers, public schools, and kindergartens, where they will apply the measles vaccine to the children.

For children not enrolled in the educational or family welfare systems, mobile teams will travel to the blocks and alleyways of the marginal urban zones and rural regions.

Eighteen Million Doses

Although the primary emphasis during this health campaign will be the fight against measles, the immunized children will also receive a preventive dose against polio, a disease for which there has been no reported cases in the last 23 months. The latest case was recorded on 21 May 1991 in the town of Arjona, in Bolivar Department.

To achieve the desired results, the Government has spent three billion pesos in acquiring the biological vaccinations to be utilized for the immunological protection of the children.

The preventive treatment will be free of charge and will prevent infection by the disease for life.

Moreover, with this treatment children will be better off through preventing the circulation of the virus' complications like encephalitis, bronchopneumonia, malnutrition, diarrhea, otitis and bacterial conjunctivitis, which accompany measles in its development within the human organism.

As Health Minister Juan Luis Londono explained, it was previously common for mothers to prefer that their children become infected with measles so that their bodies would acquire antibodies against the disease.

As a result of this custom, there is a high number of children affected by reduced mental capacity, blindness, deafness, retarded growth, and reduced quality of life, not to mention the infected children who have actually died. [passage omitted.]

Minister Londono de la Cuesta explained that the campaign will involve only children from nine months to 14 years of age, since it has been shown that babies acquire a natural defense through mother's milk, and cases of measles among adults are less than one in a million.

CUBA**EC Delegate Announces Epidemic Neuropathy on Decline**

*FL1906014693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jun 93*

[Text] The epidemic neuropathy affecting Cuba is currently showing signs of decline. This was announced in Havana by an EC specialist. Dr. Fernando Martinez, director of the Carlos III Epidemiology Center of Madrid, Spain, stated that everything indicates that the epidemic is in remission. The specialist is visiting Cuba as part of an EC delegation that will study the characteristics of the epidemic neuropathy prior to allocating special aid to Cuba. The EC delegation of experts arrived in Havana on 16 June and met on 17 June with President Fidel Castro who gave them a detailed briefing on the

characteristics of the epidemic. Martinez added that Fidel will meet with the EC delegation next week at the conclusion of their tour of Cuban hospitals and research facilities.

Institute Detects Disease on Farms in Havana Province

*FL3105210693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 May 93*

[Text] The Institute of Veterinary Medicine has issued a note, which advises that the presence of a disease called hemorrhagic fever virus [hemorragica viral], which did not exist in our country, has been detected in rabbit warrens in some of the municipalities of Havana Province, especially on private farms. The disease is an acute viral disease that causes a hemorrhagic septic symptom [cuadro septico hemorragico] in some adult rabbits, which has a high mortality rate, spreads fast, and is far reaching. The disease is transmitted by the contact of healthy rabbits with sick rabbits, and with any meat, or other material contaminated with the virus. The virus does not affect human beings or other species of animals.

In the last few months, no authorized importation of rabbits or related products has been made to Cuba from any country. Ever since the presence of the disease was suspected, control measures were taken but these have not been effective enough. Therefore, it is vital to increase the prevention and control of the disease to prevent its spreading to other provinces and be able to eradicate the disease.

The civil defense and the specialized scientific organizations ask for understanding and cooperation from the population, and all institutions and organizations in the application of the following measures:

Notify the state veterinary service if there is any suspicion of the disease being present; the complete slaughter of the existent game in affected rabbit warrens, and of those that have had contact with them; the cremation of sick animal bodies and the wastes of the slaughter; bury food leftovers and feces; clean and disinfect the areas; prohibit breeding on farms that have been affected for a minimum of 90 days; the slaughter of all rabbits in state and private sectors and the litters that are in a 3 km radius; prohibit the movement of live animals and their meats inside and out of the Havana Provinces; and the creation of a limit zone between the affected areas and the nonaffected areas. They have also advised that the meat from nonaffected animals can be consumed by the population.

In 1984, the hemorrhagic fever virus was reported for the first time in China. The disease then extended throughout the European continent and numerous African countries. In America, Mexico has been the only other country affected by the sickness, which was diagnosed in 1989 and eradicated at the beginning of 1993.

HONDURAS

Seventy-Three Cases of Malaria

93WE0391B Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish
26 Mar 93 p 13

[Text] There has been an outbreak of malaria that could lead to massive deaths in El Progreso, Yoro, Dr. Delia Tercero, head of the Epidemiological Department of the Third Health Region in San Pedro Sula, reported yesterday.

She said that 73 cases of the disease have been reported to date. Malaria is transmitted by a mosquito that carries the parasite known scientifically as *Plasmodium falciparum*.

According to Dr. Tercero, an individual who has been bitten by the insect and has not received timely treatment may suffer from coagulation of the blood throughout the body, severe liver damage, encephalitis, fever, headaches, generalized discomfort, a painful liver, and shock.

In addition, the patient may suffer aftereffects, such as bouts of paralysis, total paralysis, "and even death if the disease is not treated in time."

Concern Expressed

The doctor said that *falciparum* malaria rarely occurs in our country. The first case was reported in La Ceiba, Atlantida. Because it is a port, "many tourists and sailors infected with the disease arrive there from Haiti or Cuba."

The localities that have experienced the most alarming outbreaks of the disease are the hamlets of Guaymitas, Cebu, Urraco Pueblo, Toyos, and Las Manos, in the municipality of El Progreso; and El Negrito and Agua Blanca Sur, in Yoro.

This physician noted that contingency plans have been established with a view to identify the cases that occur, since in this way the treatment of the individuals affected can be ensured and strengthened.

Dr. Tercero, who went to El Progreso yesterday to study the outbreak at close hand, said that the health region will proceed to fumigate homes and to fill in all of the sites where there are accumulations of water, which is where the mosquitoes breed.

The doctor noted that the outbreak of *falciparum* malaria has caused the medical authorities in the north zone to become concerned, since previously, the only malaria cases reported had been *vivax* malaria, which is neither very aggressive nor dangerous.

She said that in addition to the 53 cases of *falciparum* malaria reported, there are also 600 cases of *vivax* malaria. These figures are regarded as relatively low in

comparison to those for last year, when 8,812 individuals suffered from the latter type of malaria, while there were only two cases of the former type.

One Case of Leprosy

93WE0391C San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish
31 Mar 93 p 27

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Last weekend the health authorities reported one confirmed case of leprosy and two suspected cases in the southern part of the country. This situation has put those responsible for the campaign to prevent the disease on alert.

The Program for Combating Leprosy has records on 80 cases of the disease covering the period between 1991 and the present. Of these, 70 were reported in Region Four, which includes the departments of Valle and Choluteca. Two decades ago, a total of 400 cases of leprosy had been reported.

Dr. Cornelio Escoto, the physician in charge of the program, said that personnel are being trained with a view to developing an integral approach to the problem. The goal is to ensure the success of the leprosy control program.

The PAHO [Pan American Health Organization] is providing the program with technical and financial aid, and a donation of medicines for use against leprosy is expected within the next few months.

Since 1981, the treatment used in Honduras has involved a multiple-therapy approach. This guarantees the complete cure of the disease, but early detection of the cases is important in order to prevent the losses of capability that make rehabilitation processes necessary.

PANAMA

Government Signs Letter of Intent to Fight Malaria, Dengue

PA1007041993 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2002 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Panama City, 9 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian and Costa Rican Governments on 9 July signed a letter of intent to conduct a joint fight against malaria, dengue, and cholera. Their initiative is supported by UN economic resources. The delegates of both countries analyzed the epidemiological statistics of the Central American area, during a meeting which opened on 5 July and ended on 9 July in a Panama City hotel.

The government and medical authorities stressed the "urgent need of strengthening the overall control of malaria, dengue, and cholera." The doctors and investigators agreed that these three diseases, which are found especially along the border region, constitute a "threat to public health."

Cholera, which entered Panama in September 1991 through the Colombian border, has killed at least 100 persons, mostly Indians who have not heeded the Health Ministry's recommendations. According to Dr. Manuel Vasquez, Panama has one of the lowest budgets in its

history (\$150,000) to fight malaria, of which 138 cases have been reported thus far.

Panama and Costa Rica agreed to strengthen their epidemiological surveillance, exchange information, prevent the spread of the disease, and train experts and the community on how to treat the disease. The document was signed by Jose Aristides Remon, Panamanian deputy health minister; Uriel Badilla Fernandez, his Costa Rican counterpart; and Francisco Castro, representative of the Pan-American Health Organization.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Increase in Tuberculosis Cases Noted in Trinidad

*FL0206221493 Bridgetown CANA in English
1434 GMT 2 Jun 93*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, June 2, CANA—More persons were diagnosed with tuberculosis in Trinidad and Tobago during the past two years than at any time during the previous 20 years, Health Minister John Eckstein said. Speaking here Monday at the start of the first Caribbean conference on health promotion organised by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Eckstein noted the re-emergence of tuberculosis was a global phenomenon.

He said: "It is thought that some of the infection is related to HIV infection, but there are other causes such as inadequate treatment programmes and poor living conditions."

"It would seem that Trinidad and Tobago is part of that trend as there were more cases seen here in 1991 and 1992 than any of the twenty or so previous years."

Apart from new and re-emerging diseases, Eckstein said Ministries of Health in caribbean countries were confronted with problems created by structural adjustment. He noted when Trinidad and Tobago began floating its dollar in April, a severe crisis in the supply of drugs resulted at public health institutions.

To tackle the varying health problems in the region, Eckstein said it was necessary for the region to critically review and re-assess current activities, concepts, and strategies.

"We must elaborate appropriate health policies which reflect present concerns. We need to develop new approaches for the solution of the prevailing health problems," he said.

VENEZUELA

Measles Epidemic Causes 10 Deaths in Bolivar State

*93WE0440A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish
29 May 93 p 20 Section 2*

[Article by Pedro J. Becerra Leon]

[Text] Ciudad Bolivar, 28 May—Ten natives have died as a result of an epidemic of measles afflicting the Gran Sabana zone, in Alto Paragua, to the south of the Erebato River, in particular.

This was confirmed by Dr. Carlos Marcano, the regional health commissioner, who said that in view of this delicate situation, an emergency has been declared in order to combat the epidemic. Special priority will be given the communities on the boundary with the state of Amazonas. These communities are inhabited by the Indian groups among whom the deaths have occurred.

Dr. Marcano said that a commission of medical professionals headed by Dr. Jesus Cordero has been dispatched to the zone. The members of the commission are at present in the community of Entrerios.

The Indians who died were children and young people of both sexes between six months and 20 years of age living in the communities of Entrerios, Guana, Yuri, and Boca de Karon. There are other serious cases as well in those communities, and the commission is in the process of determining their number.

The health commissioner reported that special assistance was expected today (yesterday) from the capital of the Republic in the form of vaccines against measles. The vaccines will be taken to the affected zone in order to begin massive immunizations, since the Indians in these zones are susceptible to this disease.

The commissioner also announced the organization of an airlift. Helicopters will be used to evacuate the extremely serious cases that need to be transferred to the Ruiz y Paez Hospital.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Regional Epidemiology Roundup 21 May - 13 June

BK1406103293

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of summaries of foreign media reports on Southeast Asian and South Asian Epidemiology developments monitored by Bangkok Bureau between 21 May and 13 Jun 1993. Sourcelines are given in parentheses after each item.

INDONESIA

Irian Jaya Demands AIDS-Free Certificates From Foreigners

Irian Jaya, amidst reports that AIDS is rampant, has required foreigners to equip themselves with AIDS-free certificates when they enter the country's eastern-most province through Timika Airport in the regency of Fak-Fak. Military commander Lieutenant Colonel Suparlan said that the regulation is also being applied to foreigners working for Freeport Indonesia Incorporated (FII), the world's largest copper mining company. His area of command, which covers Timika and nearby Tembagapura, is still free from AIDS according to the local health office. This, however, should not reduce our alertness, he said. He also denied reports that prostitutes in the two regencies had become carriers of HIV, the AIDS virus. (Jakarta ANTARA in English 1011 GMT 7 Jun 93)

Jakarta Urges Prevention of Dengue Epidemic

The Jakarta metropolitan district administration has warned of a possible outbreak of dengue hemorrhagic fever in 1993 in accordance with the culmination of a five-year cycle of dengue fever outbreaks. Several preventative measures announced by the Jakarta governor, Surjadi Sudirja, are designed to eradicate breeding areas of mosquitos in Jakarta. The Jakarta metropolitan administration has resorted to measures that will enable the private sector to carry out house to house spraying of insecticide to exterminate the mosquitos. There is also a possibility that the culmination of the five-year cycle of dengue will not be restricted to Jakarta District only. The dengue hemorrhagic fever epidemic in 1986 hit 23 provinces. Of the 16,529 dengue affected persons, 3.7 percent of them died. In 1983, 22 provinces were hit by dengue hemorrhagic fever, and 3.6 percent out of the 13,668 patients died. And in 1987 and 1988 dengue spread to 26 out of 27 provinces in Indonesia. All provincial administrations are urged to exercise caution and take measures to prevent a future epidemic. (Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 21 May 93)

LAOS

Two Hundred Forty-Eight Die of Dysentery, Malaria, in Saravane

According to officials of the Public Health Service of Ta-oi District, Saravane Province, a total of 248 people have died of dysentery and malaria in Ta-oi District in the past five months. During the same period, 711 people were found to be afflicted with leprosy. The district, which is situated in a remote area, needs assistance in medical supply and other necessary items in order to help the victims of the diseases. (Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Jun 93)

Sayaboury Province Combating Malaria Virus

Since the beginning of this year, the Public Health Service of Sayaboury Province has provided malaria blood tests for more than 7,000 people in the provincial municipality and in some districts. Of this number, 16.40 percent, or slightly more than 1,000 people, were found to be afflicted with the malaria virus, which is 7.8 percent less than during the same period in 1992. Last year, 27 people died of the disease while five people have died in the province this year. (Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 7 Jun 93)

MALAYSIA

Cholera Cases in Kelantan Total 142

The number of cholera cases in Kelantan has risen to 142 after five new cases were detected recently. Dr. Mohamed Taha Arif, director of Kelantan's Medical and Health Services Department, said in Kota Baharu that eleven patients are being treated at hospitals. The water of the Chemerlang River is believed to contain cholera bacteria. (Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 7 Jun 93)

THAILAND

Study Shows Meningitis Affecting 1,000 Annually

According to the director of the Department of Medical Science, meningitis is a major health problem in Thailand, causing death in 20-30 percent of the cases. A study shows that 1,000-2,000 Thai people suffer from meningitis each year. Meningitis is normally widespread during the rainy season. The virus which causes meningitis is mainly developed in rice fields and water sources in rural and urban areas. The disease is found mostly in the north, followed by the northeast, the south, and the central regions. It is also mainly found in children aged less than 14 years. (Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 7 Jun 93)

VIETNAM

308 HIV-Carriers Reported in Ho Chi Minh City

According to the Preventive Medical Center of Ho Chi Minh City, 18 more HIV-positive cases were recently detected, raising the total number of HIV-carriers in Ho Chi Minh City to 308. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 13 Jun 93)

Dong Nai Province Suffers Hemorrhagic Fever Epidemic

A recent epidemic of hemorrhagic fever developed in the two Districts of Tan Phu and Dinh Quan of Dong Nai Province. As of 10 June, the Dinh Quan District Hospital had diagnosed 125 cases of hemorrhagic fever, including 10 serious and two fatal cases. The people's committees of the concerned districts have immediately carried out measures such as spraying insecticides and mobilizing people to clean the surroundings and clear all damp places around their homes. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 13 Jun 93)

Antimalaria Campaign Carried Out in Nghe An Province

Since early 1993, Nghe An Province has concentrated its budget and manpower on launching an antimalaria campaign. Apart from the fund allocated by the central government, the province has also invested 365 million dong in malaria control activities. The provincial public health service has sent 1,000 of its workers to malaria-infested villages and hamlets to arrange medical examinations and treatment. Presently, 63,571 people have received medical treatment and 500,000 others have been immunized against the disease. In the first five months of this year, the number of people suffering from malaria dropped by 56.2 percent and malaria mortality by 77.9 percent compared to the same period last year. (Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 8 Jun 93)

Lam Dong Province Launches Antimalaria Campaign

Lam Dong Province has assigned 43 mobile teams made up of 470 para-medical personnel to carry out medical treatment and prevention measures against malaria for 22,700 patients who live in remote villages and hamlets. The campaign has the support of Cho Ray Hospital and the Malaria Hospital of Ho Chi Minh City, Military Hospital 175, the Military Academy in Dalat city, and the local Armed Forces of Lam Dong Province. (Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Jun 93)

Over 300 Children Afflicted With Encephalitis B in North

The Ministry of Public Health has reported that an epidemic of Encephalitis B has struck many northern provinces, causing the deaths of at least 13 children. In just 40 days from May 1 to June 9, 328 children were rushed to the Vietnam-Sweden Children's Hospital in Hanoi for treatment. Most of the patients were from Ha Tay, Hai Hung, Vinh Phu, Ha Bac, and Nam Ha. A similar wave hit 12 northern provinces in about the same period last year, killing nine.

The 13 fatal cases reported so far were due to belated delivery to the hospital, doctors said. In up to 60 percent of the children, the disease has led to paralysis. (Hanoi VNA in English 1354 GMT 12 Jun 93)

INDIA

Mysterious Disease Hits Orissa Village

93WE0462A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA
in English 30 Apr 93 p 9

[Article by Rajaram Satapathy]

[Text] Bhubaneswar, April 29. Imagine a village where every adult suffers from curvature of the waist and children with twisted legs and rickety bodies struggle in vain to reach adolescence.

Incredible though it may sound, Balasingh is one such village in Orissa where a mysterious disease has crippled men, women and children alike. As many as seven villagers have died in the last four years while many more are either bed-ridden or reduced to walking with sticks.

Balasingh has a population of 1,100, a majority of whom are small farmers and labourers. There are in all 150 families and on an average, seven persons in each family have been afflicted by the disease.

During a recent visit to the village, this correspondent found that the symptoms of the disease were peculiar in nature. In the case of children, it started after they turned five years of age. First, their teeth became black, followed by severe pain in the joints. The legs and hands then became thin and ultimately, the body got twisted.

The condition of the afflicted adults was worse. One hardly found a villager with a straight body. "Our legs are becoming stiff and we are not able to walk as our body constantly trembles," said Pandari Parida (48), who has been suffering from the disease for the last three years.

Forty-year-old Malati Dei, a mother of five children, has been bed-ridden for the last two years as both her legs have been crippled. So has 25-year-old Pabani Pradhan.

In the case of Kashinath Pradhan, out of nine members in his family, eight have been afflicted. Similarly, in Mr. Jogi Pradhan's family all the five persons are suffering from the ailment.

Forty-year-old Nityananda was once one of the most stockily-built persons in the village. During the Rama Navami festival, he used to play the role of Hanuman. But today Nityananda is not even able to stand straight. "Fate has played havoc with my life. My family members are also affected by this disease," he said with tears in his eyes.

At the age of 25, Basant Kumar Dalai did not believe that the disease would affect him. With a bend waist, Basant has to look after his old parents who are also victims of the disease.

Curiously, Balasingh is the only village in the area which has been hit by this disease. Strangely enough some

women became victims of the disease after their marriage, strengthening the belief that there was something wrong with the village.

According to Jagannath Rout (40), people in neighbouring villages were reluctant to marry in their village. Labourers from Balasingh were not being employed in other villages because of their twisted legs.

Even students interested in pursuing higher studies have been affected. Some children, who were studying in a nearby high school, recently discontinued their studies because of unkind remarks by children from other villages.

Although a scheme to provide drinking water through pipes was now being implemented, villagers pointed out that it would hardly improve the situation as many children and youths were still suffering and new cases were coming up.

Waterborne Diseases Rampant in Uttar Pradesh

93WE0460A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA
in English 11 May 93 p 9

[Article: "Water-Borne Diseases Rampant in U.P."]

[Text] Lucknow, May 10 (PTI). Nearly 30 people have died during the past ten days and over 2,000 people are sick with water-borne diseases—gastroenteritis and cholera—in over a dozen districts of Uttar Pradesh, according to official estimates.

The data, however, does not include those admitted to private clinics.

Though gastro and cholera afflict the state every year, this year's attack is different as the outbreak is "sudden," almost one month in advance and the affected areas are mostly urban, health officials say.

Besides, the large number of casualties come despite the epidemic wing of the state health directorate's warning that 21 severely hit gastro and cholera districts including the state capital and the eastern districts, might face an early outbreak of the epidemics due to poor drinking water quality.

The ortho-toludene (OT) test for assessing the level of chlorine in potable water was found to be negative in almost all these 21 districts by the health directorate.

It has in turn informed the civic and jal sansthan officials and the top brass in the state secretariat to ensure that safe drinking water be made available, a spokesman of the health department said.

According to official sources, Aligarh, from where 16 deaths and over 600 seizures have been reported mainly from urban localities, is the worst hit, district in the state.

The situation is being closely monitored and efforts are on a warfooting to contain the spread of the epidemic.

The other affected districts are Lucknow, Banda, Agra, Fatehpur, Etah, Sitapur, Hamirpur and Farrukhabad.

According to health department sources, the timely warning to improve the drinking water quality and hygiene was issued this year keeping in view the ten-year study of gastro and cholera cases in the "sensitive districts" which showed an alarming pattern.

Besides, comparative statistics for the last three years show a substantial increase in gastro cases.

While in 1990, 7,447 seizures were reported, there were 873 casualties. During 1991, the figure almost doubled with 15,000 seizures and 997 deaths. Last year, however, the situation was slightly better with 7,757 seizures and 800 deaths.

The outbreaks of gastro and cholera this year has been sudden and considering the number of seizures and casualties the figures might reach alarming proportions, admitted an official of the epidemics department.

The outbreak of gastro enteritis has been compounded with a new problem. The health officials have warned of a possible outbreak of an entirely new strain of gastro-enteritis 'non-vibro cholera'—so far unknown to the medical world.

The new strain has already made its entry in gastro-ravaged Bangladesh and West Bengal.

There are reports that the same germs have tested positive in districts of Bihar and it may hit the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

Gorakhpur, Bahraich, Azamgarh, Sidharthanagar, Mau, Basti, Gonda and Maharajganj are the eastern districts where maximum gastro and cholera cases are reported every year.

The officials said the new strain is more "virulent and deadly" and the health directorate has warned all the chief medical officers and civic authorities to activate epidemic vigilance and carry out the gastro-containment measures on a war footing.

The situation is certainly alarming said an official, adding that "we are on the job and closely monitoring the daily developments with mobile medical teams, water tankers, disinfection operation and medical camps on the affected districts."

Over 25,000 people have already been inoculated with cholera vaccine, he said.

But the fact remains that such an epidemic could not be washed away by mere anti-cholera inoculation and a few palliatives. Behind this annual human tragedy are several unanswered questions, say observers.

Can you dump the urban poor out of sight and forget them all in the fond hope that all is well with the world. Can we deny them the basic right to have safe drinking water.

Extensive bleaching of drinking water is one method that could save human lives, said an official.

The issue is not merely of 30 deaths and 2000 seizures as of today but to bring together the health, civic and jal sansthan officials who have been complacent, he said.

Instead of solving the recurring phenomenon, they have been trading charges against each other and the spread of epidemics continues unabated.

Disease Combination Kills Thousands of Poultry

*93WE0461A Madras THE HINDU in English
10 May 93 p 3*

[Article: "Virus Kills Two Lakh Poultry"]

[Text] Tiruchi, May 9. Death of over two lakh poultry in Namakkal and surrounding villages in a week had been reported. This is attributed to an unusually combined infection of two different kinds of virus, the Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) and the Ranikett.

The virus infection was further aggravated by the Chicken Anaemia agent and inclusion body Hepatitis diagnosed for the first time in Namakkal, according to Dr. Venugopalan, Director, Centre for Animal Sciences, Madras, who undertook an intensive survey of Namakkal and Rasipuram taluks. However, the epidemic had been brought under control and no fresh case of fatality had been reported from two taluks for the past few days, Dr. Venugopal added.

Following the fatality of lakhs of birds, the price of eggs also shot up for few weeks and it is now stabilising.

Asked whether the epidemic could have been avoided in this age of technology advances etc, Dr. V. Gnana-prakasam, Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary Sciences University, told this Correspondent that it could be controlled only by vaccination which could be done either by the Government or the poultry farm owners themselves. But vaccinating over 10 million birds in the two taluks would mean a cost of over Rs. 20 lakhs, which the poultry farm owners were not keen to take up.

Explaining what the university has done in its part, as a long range programme, Dr. Gnana-prakasam said the moment he got the letter from the Government about the combined infectious attack of IBD and Ranikett in Namakkal, he established immediately a poultry diseases diagnostic laboratory at Namakkal at a cost of Rs. 15 lakhs and sanctioned another Rs. 15 lakhs for the purchase of sophisticated equipment for diagnosis and postmortem purposes. He also sent a specialist with a jeep to drive round Namakkal and Rasipuram to diagnose the infection and advise immediate treatment.

On the part of the poultry farmers, the Vice-Chancellor regretted that they did not care to take up the vaccination programme, because of the cost factor and secondly, overstocking of birds, poor unhygienic disposal of the

birds and indifference to the management of the birds population were the factors responsible for these combined infection appearing for the first time as an epidemic form, taking the lives of over two lakh birds.

Realising the need for an extensive research in poultry science, the university had decided to introduce all the nine subjects relating to poultry breeding and poultry science hatchery, etc., as study, both for research and conventional in M.V.Sc and Ph.D. at the Veterinary College at Namakkal.

IRAN

Official on Number of Thalassemia Sufferers

*93LA0078Y Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
16 May 93 p 2*

[Text] According to the supervisor of the Blood Transfusion Base of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari every day four babies suffering from thalassemia [a deficiency of red blood cells] are born in the country, and on an annual basis this large number of infants will need thousands of pints of blood.

Yesterday, Dr. Azita Shirani, in an interview with IRNA's correspondent announced that the number of thalassemia sufferers in the province of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari is about 254.

She noted that the symptoms of this disease afflicting infants or young children, consist of general physical weakness, pallor, bleeding of the gums, and skin irritations.

The supervisor of the Blood Transfusion Base of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari further added: In order to secure the blood needs of the afflicted individuals in this region, all the blood products except red blood cells and blood serum with fibrin are prepared at the two Blood Transfusion Bases of Shahr Kord and Borujen.

Similarly, she stated that the number of individuals suffering from hemophilia is about 18 in the said province.

Rabies-Like Disease Reported in Bandar 'Abbas

93LA0049Z Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Gavbandi, Bandar 'Abbas—IRNA: The spread of a suspicious disease among the wild animals in the district of Gavbandi in Bandar 'Abbas has made them rabid.

This disease has now killed more than 50 dogs and cats in the desert villages of the district of Gavbandi. The disease has no specific symptoms, and animals infected with it die after two or three days.

In the same regard, the Health Care Center at Bandar Langeh has sent teams to study, research, and test the type of disease to the region.

After being infected with this disease, a wild cat bit the hand of a 70-year-old woman.

ISRAEL

Higher Incidence of Tuberculosis Said Due to Immigration

TA2207112693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 22 Jul 93 p 10

[Report by Devora Namir]

[Excerpt] The number of tuberculosis patients has recently doubled in Israel in the wake of immigration from Ethiopia and Asian CIS members. This was stated yesterday by Dr. Daniyel Willer, director of the Haifa center for lung disease and member of the Health Ministry's advisory committee.

The Health Ministry has confirmed that one Israeli out of 10,000 already has or will contract the disease. The ministry does not anticipate the number of new tuberculosis patients to exceed 500 a year.

In 1989, only 160 cases of active tuberculosis were reported in Israel. Some 234 more contracted the disease in 1990, and a year later, 505 new patients were reported. In January-May 1993 alone, 150 new cases—mostly new immigrants—were reported, and the epidemic continues. [passage omitted]

SUDAN

Leishmaniasis Cases Reported

93WE0413A Khartoum AL-INQAZ AL-WATANI
in Arabic 9 Apr 93 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Muhammad Haj-'Ali, director of the Joint Sudanese-American Tropical Disease Project, by Mutawakkil 'Abd-al-Dafi': "World Agencies Inflate Spread of Kala-Azar Disease in South"; first three paragraphs are AL-INQAZ AL-WATANI introduction; place and date not given]

[Text] News agencies report the Bentiu area is infested with the "kala-azar" disease. Our sources have denied those reports. What is kala-azar, and what is the extent of its spread?

Even in Khartoum, many suffer from ulcers that are difficult to treat. This is called dermal leishmaniasis, which is caused by sand flies. Other flies of the same type spread intestinal leishmaniasis, known as kala-azar. However, the first type affects only the skin, causing disfigurement. The latter disease circulates in the bloodstream and seriously damages the liver and spleen. It can cause the patient to die.

Dr. Muhammad Haj-'Ali is the director of the joint Sudanese-American project to study tropical diseases. We asked him for the facts concerning the disease

situation in the Bentiu area of southern Sudan, the areas where sand flies are prevalent, and what efforts the project is making to eliminate their effects. Dr. Haj-'Ali began by relating the history of the Istak [word as published] Laboratory.

Dr. Haj-'Ali: This building was opened in the sixties and was built, with the support of the World Health Organization, to be a central laboratory. There are regional laboratories in the state capitals, such as al-'Ubayd and Port Sudan. They are subordinate to the Medical Laboratories and Research Bureau. The Bureau includes departments for blood diseases, bacterial diagnostics, tissues, chemistry, medical entomology, hygiene, parasitology, and AIDS and viruses, all of which are subordinate to the Ministry of Health. There are other departments that are subordinate to the College of Medicine. These include allergies and immunology, and the Department of Parasitology, which is also subordinate to the National Research Center's Institute of Tropical Regions.

These laboratories not only offer diagnostic services to the capital. Today, laboratories have been established in all hospitals. In Khartoum, there is the al-Nuss Laboratory, and there is a lab in the Umdurman Hospital as well. As for tissue and AIDS services, they are referred by the hospitals to this building.

Sudanese-American Laboratory

This lab, the Michigan Laboratory, is a joint project between the American Institutes of Health and researchers in Sudan, who work for various organizations, such as the Ministry of Health, the National Research Center, and Khartoum University. It also includes students who are studying for their masters or doctoral degrees at the University of Khartoum and the Islamic University. Basically, the laboratory is concerned with studies within the framework of providing services to the masses, such as the leishmaniasis examination, which the lab is offering because it is a new test and not available in the country. We also conduct research to introduce these tests as a routine matter in areas where the disease is found, such as eastern and southern Sudan. Historically, these areas are known to harbor kala-azar. The examination is done by taking a blood sample from the finger. This is new, because samples used to be taken from bone marrow, for example, in certain cases.

The department participated in training the cadres when that problem began in the late eighties. Cases of kala-azar began to appear in the Bentiu area, particularly on the upper Nile. The spread was aggravated by migration to the cities from war and famine areas. We found 700 cases among those who came from Bentiu. They were treated in a hospital that was established in the al-Jarif Health Center, which was converted into a temporary hospital for kala-azar cases. When I said cases, the cases that were not returned to that hospital were transferred to a ward, called the kala-azar ward, of Suba Hospital.

NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA

Certain organizations assisted in the treatment of kala-azar, which usually appears as an epidemic in one place and, then, disappears, only to appear somewhere else at another time. This is what is known, historically, about this disease.

News Agencies' Reports Exaggerated

'Abd-al-Dafi': We asked Dr. Haj-'Ali about these news reports.

Dr. Haj-'Ali: The world press and news agency reports about a kala-azar epidemic in the Bentiu area of southern Sudan are very much inflated and rely on non-epidemic data. By that I mean, in order to determine the degree of spread of a disease in some area or other we employ specific, scientific methods, such as statistics, taking of random samples, and testing by scientifically determined diagnostic methods. Some people may appear, clinically, to have the disease, but this is not sufficient to prove the disease is present. Examinations must be conducted; we have not found these tests in certain studies. Some studies do not have random sampling.

When an airplane lands in the Bentiu area, the people rush to it, because it has food or medicine. When they learn that it carries a team to treat kala-azar, the sick come. If 100 persons come, we find that 80 of them are sick with kala-azar. This does not mean that 80 percent of the inhabitants have kala-azar, because only the sick go to the plane. This is a non-random sample and is called an isolated sample.

'Abd-al-Dafi': What is the nature of the disease and its danger?

Dr. Haj-'Ali There are two types of this disease. Dermal leishmaniasis is carried by sand flies. The sand fly carries the microbe called leishmania. This is the family name. There is leishmania donovani, which is an intestinal disease that affects the liver and spleen. Leishmania tropica is dermal leishmaniasis. So far, the types of flies that carry the intestinal variety have not been identified.

'Abd-al-Dafi': Is there kala-azar in Khartoum?

Dr. Haj-'Ali: The state of Khartoum is completely free of any trace of kala-azar. According to our data, intestinal leishmaniasis (kala-azar) found in Khartoum are cases brought in from southern and eastern Sudan.

Dermal leishmaniasis is not a threat to humans, but some people might carry the bacteria and ulcerate. This is not the result of the leishmania itself. We suggest washing the ulcer with solution. The body usually resists the microbe and kills it by itself.

Countermeasures

'Abd-al-Dafi': What measures are used to combat this fly?

Dr. Haj-'Ali: When the sand fly attacks an afflicted person, it acquires the microbe from that person, and the cycle begins. Then, it bites another person and passes the microbe on from that afflicted person or host animal. The fly itself does not generate the microbe, as does the anopheles mosquito that transmits malaria.

Therefore, the best way to fight this fly is by having healthy people, who are free of this disease. When the fly bites them, it cannot transmit the microbe. There is another known way to combat this fly, by killing them in places where they breed. They exist in specific climates and special kinds of vegetation, and are also found in fissures in mountainous areas.

It is well known that 1986 saw a considerable spread of dermal leishmaniasis in al-Tuti Island area. Vaccination also plays a role in combatting this disease. Unfortunately, a vaccine has yet to be discovered for intestinal leishmaniasis, which causes kala-azar. Experimentation is going on in South America, where a vaccine was produced that kills dermal leishmaniasis. The research is continuing.

'Abd-al-Dafi': Is kala-azar a danger to children?

Dr. Haj-'Ali: Unless it is treated, kala-azar results in death, especially among children, because they lack sufficient immunity. The costs of treating this disease are high. One vial costs more than \$100, and the patient might need two, in order to eliminate the disease. This disease exists in poor areas; therefore, the burden of treatment falls on the state. Perhaps it would be useful to direct volunteer organizations toward this humanitarian work. In many places, there are local doctors and nurses ready to treat their people, but volunteer organizations could play an important role in providing the expensive medicine. That could be done through coordination with the Department of Endemic Diseases or the Department of Infectious Medicine.

Meningitis Outbreak Reported in Sudan

93WE0432A London AL-KHARTOUM in Arabic
20 Apr 93 p 1

[Unattributed Article: "Four Hundred & Sixty-Eight Sudanese Citizens Contract Meningitis: Sixty-One Die of Meningitis"]

[Text] Sixty-one Sudanese died of meningitis, out of a total number of 468 cases of meningitis, between January and April of the current year, averaging a death every two days.

In a declaration to AL-KHARTOUM, the director of epidemiology at the Sudanese Ministry of Health, Dr. Hashim Ali al-Zeyn, said that most cases occurred in al-Iqlim al-Awsat (central region) where the number of cases reached 207; in Khartoum there were 133 cases; in al-Istiwa'iya (equatorial region) 50, in Kordifan and Darfur, 28 respectively; in al-Sharqi (eastern region) 14; and in al-Shimali (northern region) 8 cases.

The director of epidemiology added that on the average cases in the district of al-Dandar were 47, the highest among all the districts of Sudan, a situation that necessitated the dispatch to that district of an additional quantity of serum amounting to 500,000 doses out of a total of 700,000 doses. This latter amount was destined to al-Iqlim al-Awsat where 46 cases were reported in al-Jazirah, 30 in Kusti, 37 in Sanga, 23 in Sannar, and 18 in al-Damazin.

In Khartoum, the director of the meningitis emergency room, Dr. Muhammad Bakhayt, said the cases were concentrated mainly in al-Haj Yusuf, in Umm Bu'ra,

and in unsupervised popular housing. He added that 75 percent of the casualties are children under five. He further said that out of the four million inhabitants of Khartoum, only 60,000 persons have been inoculated against meningitis.

Dr. Bakhayt indicated that his Ministry is planning to vaccinate a million citizens within the coming period. He attributed the slow pace of inoculation to two factors: first the use of needles instead of the proper vaccination device, and second, the exorbitant price of the serum which restricted the vaccination efforts, thus causing an increase in the meningitis epidemic.

Tajikistan: Group of 'Trespassers' From Afghanistan 'Eliminated'

*LD2207064893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0455 GMT 22 Jul 93*

[Report by correspondent Alisher Khodzhayev from Dushanbe]

[Excerpts] Good morning. I will begin with a report on the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. On the Shevabad section, individual armed groups of the opposition have penetrated Tajik territory and gone to the mountains. Mobile groups from the Tajikistan National Security Committee are dealing with their neutralization.

At one of the outposts of the Moscow border detachment, a group of armed trespassers—10-12 people—tried to cross the border, but they were met by fire from the border guards and servicemen of 201st Russian motor-rifle division. The group was eliminated. According to preliminary data, one of the soldiers of the 201st division was wounded.

Provocations on the Pyandzh and Moscow sections of the Tajik-Afghan border continue. However, there have been no major breakthroughs. [passage omitted]

It was expected that up to 1,000 Tajik refugees would be transferred from the Afghan province of Balt today via the bridge in the village of (Khoyratun) to Termez and from there to Shaartuzskiy Rayon in Tajikistan. However, probably yet another disaster which has come down on Tajikistan will prevent it—cholera. An outbreak of this grave disease has been noted on the territory of Pyandzhskiy Rayon. Cholera cases have been also registered on the Afghan bank at places where Tajik refugees have accumulated. Probably the disease has moved here from Afghanistan since cholera—we all know this—is always caused by overcrowding, bad water, bad diet, and of course by weather, which is currently awfully hot in the south. So, most likely, the crossing of the refugees will not take place, since the quarantine services will not allow the people to this bank. The republic's Ministry of Public Health is taking urgent measures to localize the center of the disease.

My cameraman and I are now going there, so see you on the TV screen or talk to you on Mayak waves.

Russia: Syphilis in Murmansk Nursery
*93WE0226B Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
26 Jan 93 p 6*

[Article by Northwest Information Agency under the rubric "Briefs"]

[Text] The acutely communicable form of syphilis has been found in one of the nurseries of Murmansk. A nanny had the disease. It is not known thus far whether children were infected with syphilis ["economica"], since the incubation period for this disease lasts two weeks. In any case, the entire group will now receive a potent antibiotic for two weeks.

In the opinion of Nadezhda Pogorelova, deputy chief physician of the oblast KVD [venereal disease clinic?], the problem is that there has been a dramatic decline in frequency of testing personnel of children's institutions for venereal diseases. While it was previously mandatory for their blood to be tested each quarter, at present this is being done once a year.

Russia: Inadequate Vaccination Blamed for Diphtheria Outbreak

*PM1907123193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 3*

[Article based on reports by ITAR-TASS correspondents: "Diphtheria Has Us By The Throat"]

[Text] As is known, last year saw the biggest outbreak of diphtheria on the European continent in the past 20 years. This year Russia and its two megalopolises of Moscow and St. Petersburg are again, like last year, alas, leading the world in this very dangerous infectious disease.

The grim medical statistics on diphtheria infection in the fatherland were cited at an international conference of medical scientists and physicians in St. Petersburg. It was organized by the WHO European office and was attended by eminent epidemiologists from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltic republics, with the assistance of the well-known French Mérieux Foundation (Lyons)—recognized leader in the sphere of vaccine and serum production.

At the moment experts do not see sufficient evidence of the stabilization of the epidemiological situation, although the Russian Government is now preparing a special program to combat the epidemic. At the same time, for example, only a little over 40 percent of St. Petersburg's citizens have been vaccinated, whereas, according to WHO data, at least 79 percent of the megalopolis' population have to be vaccinated if diphtheria is to be halted. It is worth noting that despite the dire shortage of medicines, vaccines, and serums in St. Petersburg's outpatients clinics, they are prepared to vaccinate free of charge.

Pediatricians are disheartened by the fact that, because of medical contraindications, one St. Petersburg child in three is now unvaccinated.

There have been 594 recorded cases of diphtheria in the capital since the beginning of the year and 32 people have died. Indeed 5 million adults in Moscow have not been vaccinated—their unprotected organisms can easily catch this serious disease.

The situation is no better in the provinces. In Tula Oblast, for example. In the administrative center alone the number of diphtheria cases has quadrupled compared with last year. Again it is due to the sharp fall in the number of vaccinations. Unfortunately, adults often

ignore these preventive measures. Yet unvaccinated adults constitute four-fifths of all diphtheria cases.

Kazakhstan: Outbreak of Anthrax

LD0906211893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Jun 93

[from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] An outbreak of malignant anthrax has been registered in Kazakhstan. One person has died. The situation is dangerous, since some of the affected meat has already been sold by dealers from Semipalatinsk oblast whose names have not yet been established. Many services have been put on the alert.

DENMARK**Origin of Salmonella Outbreak Traced**

*93EN0416B Copenhagen BERLINSKE TIDENDE
in Danish 25 May 93 p 2*

[Article by Kaj Skaaning: "Control of Salmonella"—introductory paragraph in boldface as published]

[Text] **Everything points to the fact that the many instances of salmonella in a recent investigation of Copenhagen grocery stores reflected a local problem. A larger number of spot checks showed a better result.**

The alarming number of salmonella instances that resulted from a spot check of the Copenhagen area recently appear to have been an isolated and local incident.

The Veterinary Directorate has now taken samples of 931 products and found 34 positive. That corresponds to 3.7 percent. The directorate's own goals permit 5 percent maximum.

Only in Uncooked Products

"Positive samples were found in uncooked products, but not in heat-treated products," said laboratory director Kaj Haaning. "Salmonella was found particularly in pork, and that can be attributed to the newly terminated slaughterhouse conflict, in which the pigs were packed closely together in the stalls. This increases the risk of infection. Why the Copenhagen grocery control found so many positive samples is being currently investigated."

Those operations which delivered positive samples are now getting a visit from the directorate.

Among the investigated products were 50 pork tenderloins—a product which has led to problems in the Swedish market.

But they were all free of salmonella and that means, according to Haaning, that the effort has borne fruit.

Originally, it had been planned to take 5,000 samples in the middle of May. The delay was due to the fact that the operators, for cost considerations, wanted the samples to be done in their own laboratories.

"That delayed the matter, but there is nothing dubious about this procedure, as the samples are to be taken under our supervision. And the number of positive samples has been just as large from the slaughterhouses' own laboratories as from the state laboratories," said Haaning.

'Worst Salmonella Epidemic' in Modern Times Strikes

*LD0806121393 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network
in Swedish 1030 GMT 8 Jun 93*

[Text] Denmark has been hit by the worst salmonella epidemic in modern times. Several thousand Danes have fallen ill and the doctors are reckoning that up to 20,000 persons are carrying the salmonella bacterium. The infection originated in an abattoir in southern Jutland, which has now been closed.

Salmonella Outbreak Threatens Pork Exports**Farmers Divided on Blame**

*93WE0481A Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE
in Danish 22 Jun 93 p 4*

[Article by Poul Hoi: "Salmonella Problems Divide Agriculture"]

[Text] Braedstrup—The salmonella debate has divided Danish agriculture. Pork producers are angry that the food industry and small farmers have attempted to exploit a difficult situation and gain both money and cheap points on the salmonella problem, according to Erling Bech Poulsen, a farmer, who is president of the Danish Pork Producers. "It's twice as frustrating when the attacks come from our own ranks, and I'm disappointed that the food industry has taken advantage of the situation to cast doubt on domestically produced food and has tried to increase its own profits. It's just as great a disappointment that the Danish Home Farm Association has used the issue in its eternal struggle with large-scale agriculture, which it has blamed for being primarily responsible for the problem," Erling Bech Poulsen said.

The split became evident when the Danish Pork Producers yesterday held a salmonella hearing in Braedstrup. In addition to the president, several other members also had harsh criticisms of the food industry: "They're doing their damnedest to exploit the situation to put their fingers into my and my colleagues' pockets," said Kurt Bloch Nielsen.

A panel of experts had been invited to the hearing, and both pork producers and experts put great hope in the industry's action plan which will soon be announced.

Poultry Hit Earlier

*93WE0481B Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE
in Danish 24 Jun 93 p 4*

[Article by Poul Hoi: "Salmonella in Chickens Reduced at a Cost of 100 Million Kroner"]

[Text] *Poultry: The pork industry will enact a salmonella action plan similar to the one the poultry industry implemented. It cost 100 million kroner to reduce salmonella in poultry from 70 to 12 percent in three years.*

Salmonella: The Veterinary Directorate's salmonella investigation of pork producers who supply the Brorup Slaughterhouse in southern Jutland have discovered salmonella bacteria at nine of the slaughterhouse's 60 suppliers, according to Radio Syd, the Danish Radio affiliate in southern and lower Jutland. The nine pork producers have been banned from making deliveries to the Brorup Slaughterhouse. Instead they are supposed to make deliveries to one of the big slaughterhouses that can subject meat to heat treatment after slaughtering and thus kill the bacteria.

It cost the poultry industry 100 million kroner to bring salmonella contamination under control. In the past three years the industry has implemented an action plan similar to the one that Danish pork producers are now contemplating:

"In 1989, owing to foreign imports, our entire system had been infected, so salmonella had been detected in 70 percent of poultry. With the action plan, today we have brought the number down to 12 percent and the number of types of salmonella has been cut in half," said Thorkil Ambrosen, a department head at the Danish Poultry Council.

He indicated there were two reasons for the favorable outcome: "We slaughtered barely 30,000 sick breeders and had the meat treated with heat."

High Cost

The poultry industry itself paid the 100-million-kroner bill.

As things currently stand, there have not been additional revenues to offset the expenditure. But rather the reverse: "Where would sales have been today if we hadn't done something?" said Thorkil Ambrosen, who urged the pork industry to halt its internal battle and start working.

Slaughterhouse Reports New Incidence

93WE0481C Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE
in Danish 2 Jul 93 p 4

[Article by Anders Lehmann: "New Salmonella Discovered"]

[Text] Hard to kill off: The danger of finding salmonella in meat is far from over, new samples have shown. The discoveries have led Copenhagen's deputy mayor for the environment to accuse the Veterinary Directorate of ignoring the problem, and for that reason she has suggested that the directorate be made to report to the Health Ministry.

Once again the slaughterhouse in Brorup in lower Jutland is in the spotlight. Once again the Food Control Board in Copenhagen has identified meat from the privately owned slaughterhouse as the source of the salmonella problems in Copenhagen's central meat market. In five of the seven samples from the Brorup

Slaughterhouse salmonella was found, Charlotte Ammundsen (Socialist People's Party), the deputy mayor for the environment, said yesterday at a press conference at Copenhagen City Hall. But in its check of meat deliveries to the central meat market, the Food Control Board found yet another source of infection. So in seven of 11 cases, meat from the Thisted Slaughterhouse was also found to be infected with salmonella.

But attention has focused on the Brorup Slaughterhouse, which was closed down by the Veterinary Directorate in mid-June but opened one week later after having been completely cleaned. So the surprise was all the greater when salmonella was again found from Brorup.

"It was almost a joke that we took samples from Brorup's meat, because it had just been given a clean bill of health from the Veterinary Directorate," Charlotte Ammundsen said.

Thus she has accused the Veterinary Directorate of turning a blind eye to the problem and on Monday will contact wholesalers in Copenhagen's central meat market and advise them not to purchase meat from the two slaughterhouses.

"Instead of thoroughly investigating the matter and discovering the reason for the problems and doing something about them, they're putting the lid on the issue and saying that it's a local Copenhagen problem and that in any event Danish herds of pigs aren't involved," Ammundsen said.

She does not believe it is reassuring that the Veterinary Directorate, which is supposed to guarantee the quality of meat sold to consumers, reports to the Agriculture Ministry.

"That way it's the industry monitoring itself. Instead the monitoring should be assigned to a ministry that protects consumers' interests and that is not supposed to think about exports, for example the Health Ministry," Ammundsen said.

Yesterday it was not possible to obtain a comment from the slaughterhouses involved or the Veterinary Directorate to the statements by the deputy mayor for the environment.

Food Agency Issues Warning

93WE0481D Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE
in Danish 6 Jul 93 p III 3

[Article by Uffe Gardel: "Salmonella Alarm at Central Meat Market"]

[Text] Pork: The Agriculture Minister has said okay to meat from Brorup. But the Food Control Board in Copenhagen has again found a massive outbreak of salmonella and issued a warning against meat from two slaughterhouses.

Once again the Food Control Board in Copenhagen has found a huge incidence of salmonella in meat from the Brorup Slaughterhouse.

So the Food Control Board is maintaining its warning to wholesalers in Copenhagen's central meat market not to purchase meat from Brorup. Wholesalers are also being advised to be cautious with meat from the Thisted-Fjerritslev Cooperative Pork Slaughterhouse, where smaller outbreaks of salmonella have been found.

Consumers in the capital city region, however, can take it rather easy since yesterday absolutely no meat was delivered from Brorup to the central meat market.

The new salmonella alarm sounded just as the Agriculture Ministry had again given the all-clear signal. Yesterday afternoon Joan Reimann, a department head at the Agriculture Ministry, was able to announce that the State Veterinary Directorate—which reports to the Agriculture Ministry—had taken a number of meat samples from Brorup during the period 25-30 June, and state inspectors had not found salmonella.

But on the other hand, the city of Copenhagen's Food Control Board had.

"We took four samples on Monday the 28th, and three of them were positive," said Jorgen Hojmark, the director of the Food Control Board. He cautioned that the Food Control Board does not have the laboratory equipment to be able to say with certainty that an infection is salmonella. "But when we find something, it's salmonella in 90-95 percent of the cases, and here we're talking about a massive outbreak," he said.

Shut Brorup

"Earlier we urged the Veterinary Directorate to shut Brorup and, given these latest sample results, we do not see that that urging should be changed."

The Brorup Slaughterhouse was shut down and cleaned during one week in June after the Copenhagen Food Control Board had found salmonella in meat from the slaughterhouse. At that time there was salmonella in all the samples.

It takes five to seven days to analyze a meat sample for salmonella. It was samples taken on 21 and 22 June which made the Food Control Board issue the warning yesterday morning to wholesalers in Copenhagen's central meat market, even if last Friday the State Veterinary Directorate had allowed Brorup to continue production. Yesterday Joan Reimann of the Agriculture Ministry confirmed that the Veterinary Directorate as well had found salmonella in its samples from 21-22 June.

"We can confirm that there were some problems and we will now take samples from Brorup every day," she said.

The Level

The Food Control Board has also found salmonella in meat from Danish Crown, the Southern Slaughterhouse Region, Steff-Houlberg, and the slaughtering schools in Roskilde and on Djursland, but only to a slight extent.

Jorgen Hojmark said that what is at issue is not the extent to which the meat can be salmonella-free. "In Denmark we have to accept a 3- to 4-percent level of infected samples. But in Sweden they've gotten down to one percent," he said.

He urged consumers to continue to thoroughly broil or cook their meat and to make sure that raw meat not come into contact with other foods.

When broiling, one should not put the broiled meat back on the dish from which the raw meat was taken: "The dish is full of salmonella-infected juice," he said.

Paper Assesses Control Efforts

*93WE0481E Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE
in Danish 7 Jul 93 p 8*

[Editorial: "Fighting Salmonella"]

[Text] When expert knowledge is at its pinnacle, it is hard for the man in the street to follow. When the area of disagreement is food and its hygienic condition, the immediate conclusion is that doubt and uncertainty must redound to the benefit of consumers. In the renewed salmonella debate it has turned out that producers as well will be able to benefit from a focused attack on salmonella. It is unwise of the business community to take sides with the salmonella even if Denmark is not in a bad position compared with many other countries.

Developments in the salmonella case have reinforced the perception that something must be wrong. It started with chickens and now pork is involved. In both instances the problem was at first trivialized. Then came talk of the number of people taken ill, and the tune changed. So it was pointed out that perhaps it might only be a question of a single herd and later of one or two smaller slaughterhouses. In addition, the problem could also be pushed onto food suppliers. Matters were worse abroad, and too much debate could harm export interests, you also had to remember that. Thus the suspicion turned into certainty, and people remembered the story of the pork exported under a false customs declaration to Muslim countries, which refuse to have anything to do with pork.

Regardless of whether it is warranted or not, it will be viewed as alarming that meat inspection is part of the Veterinary Directorate and thus the Agriculture Ministry. It is a well-known fact that the network between the ministry and the different organized agricultural interests is finely meshed. On the other hand, just such a structure can be used as an impetus to get longer-term interests started "from above," but which can be difficult for a membership organization to get its members

nationwide to support. Yet it does not seem as if the Veterinary Directorate assumed the role of spearhead in the salmonella cases.

As the matter has come to public attention, it has not come out looking better as a consequence of the competitive situation of the Food Board reporting to the Health Ministry with its city inspection authorities. It means simply that the monitoring of live animals comes under the veterinary authorities, whereas dead animals are food, whereupon the monitoring reverts to the Food Control Board. The salmonella cases demonstrate that monitoring and quality are not determined by the slaughterer's knife alone.

The agriculture industry could do itself a service by wholeheartedly joining the agriculture minister's call for a focused attack on salmonella, with the goal of eliminating it within a few short years. Soon salmonella-free products will be a consumer demand, and there will also be many kroner to be earned in exports in a food sector that is on the leading edge of consumers' demands.

IRELAND

TB Rate Among Irish Young Higher Than EC

93WE0450A Dublin IRISH INDEPENDENT
in English 11 May 93 p 9

[Article by Eilish O'Regan: "Ireland Worst for Young TB Victims"]

[Text] The TB rate among the under-30s in Ireland is four to five times higher than in other EC countries, an expert warned yesterday.

Luke Clancy, respiratory consultant at St. James's and Peamount Hospital, Dublin, suggested that the rising incidence of the disease could be linked to unemployment, among other factors.

"If there is an effect from unemployment it may be due to the life changes in the unemployed rather than to poverty itself—for example, access to health-care facilities is less among the unemployed, so any TB patient might wait longer for treatment and spread it to more people," he told IRISH MEDICAL NEWS.

While the rise in the incidence of TB in Ireland is particularly high the overall numbers are relatively low.

In other countries, HIV as well as problems such as poverty, unemployment and drug abuse have been blamed for the increase in TB. Dr. Clancy said there could be a spread of TB from HIV-positive to HIV-negative people through coughing.

Dr. Clancy is a member of a Health Department working group which will report shortly on ways of improving treatment and screening of the disease.

He said the BCG vaccination scheme should be continued until the rate of TB was reduced.

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